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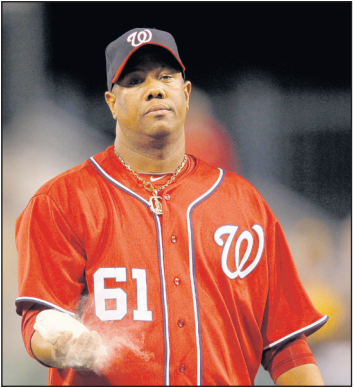
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INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS

Livan Hernandez faces scrutiny



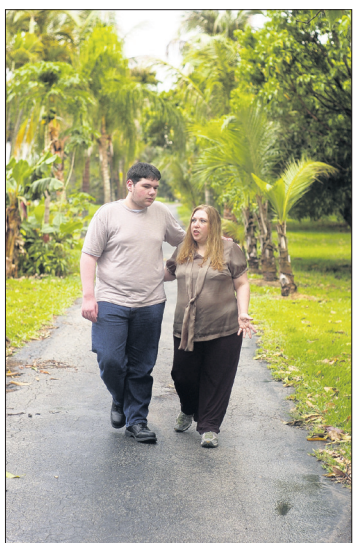
Washington Nationals starting pitcher Livan Hernandez hits the rosin bag after giving up a double to Pittsburgh Pirates' Garrett Jones that drove in a run in the Pirates 5-run first inning of the baseball game.

Associated Press

See Aruba Today Sports

HEALTH

Medicaid overhaul



Vicki Ahern and her son, Keith, 16, at their home in Davie, Fla., on April 14, 2011. Ahern built a network of health care providers to help Keith deal with muscular dystrophy, but he was added to a state HMO pilot project that takes patients out of Medicaid to cut costs.

(Maggie Steber/The New York Times)

See Page A10

Gadhafi must go



Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's daughter Aisha is surrounded by bodyguards as she attends a pro-government rally in Tripoli. She is said to play the role of referee and peacemaker in the sometimes contentious family that has dominated Libyan economic and political life.

(Moises Saman/The New York Times)

Gadhafi's Daughter prepares for death

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

© 2011 New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya — Aisha Gadhafi, the daughter of Moammar Gadhafi of Libya, likes to tell her three young children bedtime stories about the afterlife. Now, she says, they are especially appropriate.

"To make them ready," she said, "because in a time of war you never know when a rocket or a bomb might hit you, and that will be the end." In a rare interview at her charitable foundation here, Aisha Gadhafi, 36, a Libyan-trained lawyer who once worked on Saddam Hussein's legal defense team, offered a glimpse into the fatalistic mindset of the increasingly isolated family at the core of the battle for Libya, the bloodiest arena in the democratic uprising that is sweeping the region.

She dismissed the rebels as "terrorists" but suggested that some former Gadhafi officials who are now in the opposition's governing council still "keep in touch with us."

She pleaded for dialogue and talked about democratic reforms. But she dismissed the rebels as unfit for such talks because of their use of violence, hurled personal barbs at President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and, at one point, appeared to disparage the basic idea of electoral democracy.

After arranging the interview last week, Aisha Gadhafi spoke for more than an hour late Sun-

day afternoon, just hours before NATO escalated its airstrikes with an attack that disrupted state television and another on the Libyan leader's compound in Tripoli.

One of the many unofficial and sometimes rivalrous Gadhafi family power brokers who dominate Libya's economic and political life, she said the crisis had pulled the family together "like one hand."

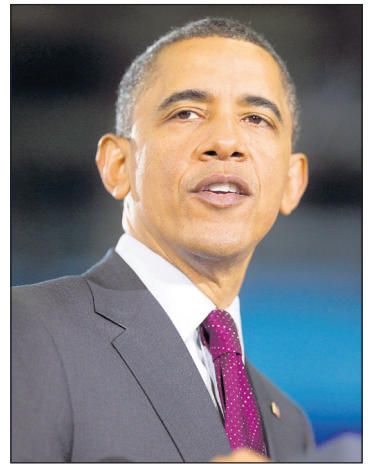
Aisha Gadhafi said that she and her seven brothers "have a dialogue between us and exchange points of view" before anyone takes a major step in their common defense. She acknowledged that she had seen news reports that her siblings had proposed easing their father from power in a transition under the direction of her brother Seif al-Islam, but she declined to comment on the details.

She also pointedly declined to answer when asked if Abdel Fattah Younes, a top rebel military official who was a longtime interior minister, was among the leaders who had kept in touch with the Gadhafi family.

"They say to us that they have their own families, daughters, sons, spouses, and they fear for them, and that is why they have taken those positions," she said of the rebel leaders. "There are many members of the council who have worked with my father for 42 years and been loyal to him. Do you think they would just go like that?"

Continued on Next Page

Obama blasts bill targeting illegal aliens



President Barack Obama.

By Jeremy Redmon

© 2011 Cox Newspapers

ATLANTA -- President Barack Obama has waded into the fierce debate over illegal immigration in Georgia, strongly criticizing the state's Arizona-style legislation on immigration enforcement.

In an interview with WSB-TV, Obama said of House Bill 87: "It is a mistake for states to try to do this piecemeal. We can't have 50 different immigration laws around the country. Arizona tried this, and a federal court already struck them down."

"The truth of the matter is that we've done more on enforcement than any previous administration," he said. "We have more border patrols. We have been engaging in serious enforcement crackdowns on employers who are hiring undocumented workers."

The author of HB 87 -- Republican Rep. Matt Ramsey of Peachtree City -- issued a prepared response Wednesday, saying Georgia has been forced to take action because the federal government has failed to secure the nation's borders. Illegal immigrants, Ramsey said, are sapping Georgia's taxpayer-funded resources.

Continued on Page A2



Aisha Gadhafi

GADHAFI**Continued from front Page**

Instead of the angry defiance and vows of retribution issued by her father and her brother Seif, Aisha Gadhafi focused on how the West would rue the chaos she predicted would engulf a post-Gadhafi Libya. When pressed repeatedly on how her family could stay in power, she said more than once, "We have a great hope in God."

Aisha Gadhafi has appeared in public twice since the bombings began, before cheering crowds at her father's com-

pound, but she seldom speaks in public. During the interview, she wore close-fitting jeans, Gucci shoes and a pale scarf that did not cover her long blond hair.

At times, she laughed at her fate, recalling how the United Nations, after "begging" her to be an envoy for peace in the past, has now referred her to the International Criminal Court. Her staff presented an illustrated biography titled "Princess of Peace."

She said her experience as a volunteer on Saddam's defense team offered relevant parallels.

"The opposition in Iraq told the West that when you come to Iraq they will greet you with roses," she said.

"Almost 10 years later they are receiving the Americans with bullets, and, believe me, the situation in Libya will be much worse."

She taunted both Obama and Clinton, saying that Obama had "achieved nothing so far" and laughed as she posed a question to Clinton: "Why didn't you leave the White

House when you found out about the cheating of your husband?"

Even as she deprecated the U.S. leaders, she repeatedly called for talks.

"The world should come together at a round table," she said, "under the auspices of international organizations."

At the same time, she ruled out any dialogue with the Libyan rebels who now control the eastern half of the country; its commercial center, Misrata; and the western mountain towns of Zintan and Nalut, dismissing them as "terrorists" who "are just fighting for the sake of fighting."

Under her brother Seif's unofficial leadership, she said, the Libyan government had been on the verge of unveiling a constitution as a step toward democratic reform when "this tragedy happened and spoiled things."

At the same time, she also derided, and possibly misunderstood, the basic ideas of checks and balances and public accountability in an electoral democracy. □

OBAMA**Continued from Front Page**

"Unlike the federal government, the state of Georgia actually balances its budget each year and we simply cannot afford to wait on solutions from Washington, D.C.," Ramsey said in an e-mail. "We will continue to take decisive and necessary action as a state to enforce the rule of law and protect our citizens from the problems posed by the federal government's failure to live up to its most basic responsibility to secure our nation's borders." Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Gov. Nathan Deal has confirmed the Republican governor intends to sign the bill some time in the first two weeks of May.

Like Arizona's law, Georgia's measure would empower state and local police to investigate the immigration status of certain suspects.

The Obama administration sued to block Arizona's law last year, arguing it is pre-empted by federal law. A federal judge sided with the White House and put some elements of Arizona's law on hold. Arizona appealed that decision. A federal appeals court recently upheld the lower court's decision, keeping much of the law on hold pending the outcome of the federal lawsuit.

Georgia has the ninth-largest population among states, but it is home to the seventh-largest number of illegal immigrants, estimated at 425,000, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

During the recently concluded state legislative session, supporters of HB 87 argued that illegal immigrants are burdening the state's public schools, jails and hospitals.

Some business owners, however, expressed concern that a crackdown would harm the state's agricultural, landscaping and restaurant industries, which partly depend on migrant labor.

Opponents of HB 87 are now ratcheting up their pressure on Deal to not sign the bill. At a news conference at the state Capitol on Wednesday, a small group of Hispanic businessmen decried HB 87, saying the publicity surrounding it is hurting the state's economy. □

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At least 11 dead as storms pound South for 2nd day

By **HOLBROOK MOHR**
and **JAY REEVES**,
Associated Press

JEFF BUSBY PARK, Miss.

— A wave of thunderstorms with winds blowing near hurricane force strafed the South Wednesday, killing at least 11 people from Arkansas to Alabama, including a father struck by a tree while protecting his daughter at a Mississippi campsite. The system laced with suspected tornadoes spread destruction Tuesday night and Wednesday from Texas to Georgia. An earlier flare-up of storms this week had already killed 10 people in Arkansas and one in Mississippi. Forecasters warned that even worse weather could be on its way. Powerful storms raked Mississippi and Alabama Wednesday afternoon, with the system forecast to move into Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky by the night and the Carolinas by the next morning.

“Today is the day you want to be careful,” said Greg Carbin of the National Weather Service’s Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma.

On Wednesday morning, a Louisiana police officer on a camping trip in Choctaw County, Miss., was killed when a towering sweetgum tree fell into his tent as he shielded his young daughter with his body, said Kim Kor-

thuis, a supervisor with the National Park Service. The girl wasn’t hurt.

The 9-year-old girl was brought to a motorhome about 100 feet away where campsite volunteer Greg Maier was staying with his wife, Maier said. He went back to check on the father and found him dead.

“She wasn’t hurt, just scared and soaking wet,” Maier said. Also in Mississippi, a man was crushed in his mobile home when a tree fell during the storm, a truck driver died after hitting a downed tree on a state highway and a member of a county road crew was killed when he was struck by a tree they were removing. The governor made an emergency declaration for much of the state.

In Alabama, where the governor also declared a state of emergency, at least five people were killed in the wave of storms. Among them was a man hit by falling tree and another killed when a tree fell on a car.

In both Mississippi and Alabama numerous felled trees blocked roads, impeding emergency responders and those trying to leave hard-hit areas.

Austin Ransdell and a friend had to hike out of their neighborhood south of Birmingham after the house where he was living was crushed by four

trees early Wednesday. No one at the house was hurt.

As he walked away from the wreckage, trees and power lines crisscrossed residential streets, and police cars and utility trucks blocked a main highway.

“The house was destroyed. We couldn’t stay in it. Water pipes broke, it was flooding the basement,” he said. “We had people coming in telling us another storm was coming in about four or five hours, so we just packed up.”

Not far away, Craig Branch was stunned by the damage.

“Every street to get into our general subdivision was blocked off.

Power lines are down; trees are all over the road. I’ve never seen anything like that before,” he said

The weather service didn’t immediately confirm that the damage was caused by tornadoes, but forecasters had issued several tornado warnings and said winds blew as hard as 70 mph, just short of hurricane force.



Ken Sanders, son-in-law of Jay and Carla Arendal, takes a rest while helping to look for items to keep after a tornado destroyed the Arendal’s home on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in Vilonia, Ark. The couple was in the home and both survived. The National Weather Service issued a high risk warning for severe weather in a stretch extending from northeast of Memphis to just northeast of Dallas and covering a large swath of Arkansas.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management confirmed early Wednesday that another person died in a storm in Sharp County. Officials said the person was in a home near Arkansas Highway 230 but didn’t know exactly how the person died.

Severe storms in northwest Georgia downed trees, blew

out windows in a hospital and tore off part of a school roof. Much of north and central Georgia was bracing for another round of thunderstorms later Wednesday and a tornado watch was issued.

In eastern Tennessee, a woman was killed Wednesday by falling trees in her trailer in Chattanooga. □

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Obama releases birth form, decries 'silliness'

This handout image provided by the White House shows a copy of the long form of President Barack Obama's birth certificate from Hawaii.

By JULIE PACE,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Responding to critics' relentless claims, President Barack Obama on Wednesday produced a detailed Hawaii birth certificate in an extraordinary attempt to bury the issue of where he was born and confirm his legitimacy to hold office. He declared, "We do not have time for this kind of silliness."

By going on national TV from the White House, Obama portrayed himself as a voice of reason amid a loud, lingering debate on his birth status. Though his personal attention to the issue elevated it as never before, Obama said to Republican detractors and the media, it is time to move on to

bigger issues.

Citing huge budget decisions in Washington, Obama said, "I am confident that the American people and America's political leaders can come together in a bipartisan way and solve these problems. We always have. But we're not going to be able to do it if we are distracted."

Obama spoke shortly after the White House released a copy of the long form of his birth certificate, which contains more extensive data than a version released earlier.

The certificate says Obama was born to an American mother and Kenyan father, in Hawaii, which makes him eligible to hold the office of president. Obama released a

standard short form before he was elected in 2008 but requested copies of his original birth certificate from Hawaii officials this week in hopes of quieting the controversy. Until Wednesday, the White House had insisted that the short form certificate was the appropriate legal document confirming Obama's birth and no further proof was needed. But so-called "birthers" opposed to Obama have kept the issue alive. Potential Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump recently began questioning why Obama hadn't ensured the long form was released.

From New Hampshire, Trump took credit for getting Obama to act.

"He should have done it a long time ago. I am really honored to play such a big role in hopefully, hopefully getting rid of this issue," Trump said. Polls show large numbers of Republicans have continued to doubt Obama is a natural born citizen eligible to be president. Trump has seized on the issue as he weighs a GOP candidacy. While Obama and White House officials avoided mentioning Trump by name, officials said they released the birth certificate partially because the issue had moved beyond fringe discussion, and Obama criticized a media culture that had not let the story go. □

Indiana may cut Planned Parenthood

By TOM DAVIES,
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana is poised to become the first state to cut off all government funding for the Planned Parenthood organization, providing a significant victory for the anti-abortion movement but posing a political predicament for the state's governor, Mitch Daniels, as he considers running for president. The Indiana House is expected to vote as soon as today to cut off the \$3 million in federal money the state distributes to the organization for family planning and health programs. The Senate approved the measure earlier this month.

The action would open a new legislative front in the conservative assault on the organization, which has been targeted for its abortion services. Efforts to cut off federal funds in Congress failed this year, but bills are moving in a number of statehouses. For Daniels, the Indiana measure forces him to decide between the state's fiscal interests and a prime goal of his party's social conservatives. If he signs the legislation, Indiana would risk losing \$4 million in Medicaid funds for indigent births and other care. If he vetoes it, Daniels could antagonize ardent social conservatives who have already been wary of his public statements about the importance of focusing on economic issues this year. A Daniels spokeswoman said the governor would not comment until the bill arrives on his desk for action. Daniels has said he will decide on a run for president after the Legislature adjourns, which is expected Friday.

Planned Parenthood says abortions account for just 3 percent of the services it provides. Planned Parenthood clinics perform 1 million screenings for cervical cancer, 830,000 breast exams and some 4 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases. Abortion-rights supporters say cutting funding for Planned Parenthood would primarily hurt poor women who often have few choices for health care.

Conservative lawmakers say, however, that any money the organization receives at least indirectly supports abortions. "If we're buying the roof over their head or their paper clips, we're still subsidizing abortion," said Republican Rep. Matt Uebelhor, who sponsored a bill to ban state grants or contracts to Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood officials have vowed to go to court to challenge any legislative cut-off. Indiana social agencies say federal law doesn't allow states to choose which agencies receive Medicaid funds, so all \$4 million of the state's family planning funds could be frozen. □

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NASA braces for Giffords, Obama, huge launch crowd

By MARCIA DUNN,
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords left hospitals behind Wednesday for the first time since her tragic shooting nearly four months ago and traveled to NASA territory for the next-to-last space shuttle launch with her husband in command.

“Gabby is looking forward to some time away from the rehab center & the chance to see Captain Mark Kelly launch again!” Giffords’ staff posted on her Facebook page.

Space shuttle Endeavour is due to blast off Friday afternoon with Kelly at the helm. It will be Endeavour’s final voyage after 19 years of spaceflight, as the shuttle era nears the end.

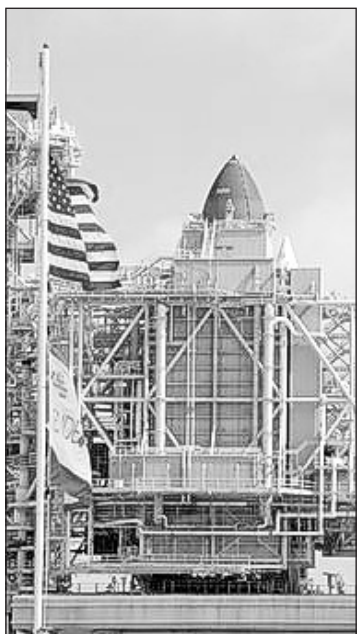
NASA managers said they’re thrilled to host Giffords, even though her presence requires a little extra care and attention. She flew by NASA jet from Houston to Florida’s Space Coast, a day behind the other astronauts’ wives and children.

“She’s NASA family,” said Mike Moses, chairman of the mission management team. Since she was critically wounded in the Jan. 8 shooting, the Arizona congresswoman has been in hospitals — first in Tucson, Ariz., and then in Houston for rehabilitation. NASA was staying mum on Giffords’ whereabouts. Her staff confirmed her departure from Houston for Florida.

The other VIP — President Barack Obama — will arrive on launch day. He’ll bring his wife and two daughters in what will be the first visit by a first family for a launch. Only two other sitting presidents have ever witnessed a manned launch: Richard Nixon for Apollo 12 in 1969 and Bill Clinton for John Glenn’s return to orbit in 1998 aboard shuttle Discovery.

With only two space shuttle launches remaining, everyone, it seems, is jostling for a front-row seat.

An estimated 40,000 guests are expected at Kennedy Space Center on launch day.



Space shuttle Endeavour is seen on pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, Wednesday, April 27, 2011 in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Endeavour is scheduled to launch on its final mission on Friday April 29th.

(AP Photo/Marta Lavandier)

Outside the gates, the crowd is expected to be the biggest in years, if not decades.

Between 500,000 and 750,000 people are expected to jam roadways for the 3:47 p.m. Friday liftoff. That’s nearly twice the crowd that descended for Discovery’s last launch in February.

Hundreds of additional journalists have already dropped into Kennedy Space Center, with satellite trucks and temporary trailers filling every available spot at the NASA press site.

Giffords’ shooting during a meet-and-greet in Tucson and her rehabilitation in Houston — home to Kelly and the rest of NASA’s astronaut corps — have overshadowed the details of Endeavour’s flight.

Endeavour and its six-man crew are bound for the International Space Station. They will deliver a \$2 billion physics experiment and a load of spare station parts. Four spacewalks are planned during the 14- to 16-day mission. Good weather is forecast for the launch: an 80 percent chance.

No public appearances or statements by Giffords are planned. She will return to her rehab hospital in Houston soon after the launch, according to her staff. □

NC teacher faces sex charges after student essay

By MEG KINNARD,
Associated Press

A former high school band teacher in North Carolina was arrested on sex charges after a young woman wrote in an essay in her college newspaper that he got her pregnant — and took her to get an abortion — when she was his student.

The essay, “I had an affair with my high school teacher,” used some fake names but identified the Winston-Salem school, and the principal there tipped off authorities. It was originally written for a composition class at North Carolina Central University and appeared in the campus paper this month as part of an annual special section.

The piece, which describes a relationship that started when the student was 17 and her teacher 24, begins with a chilling description of the abortion.

“The sound of the vacuum still rings in my ears almost three years later,” she wrote. “He had taken me to Greensboro because he was scared of someone from school or anyone catching us together at the abortion clinic — didn’t want anyone ‘getting the wrong idea.’”

The teacher, Terry Lamar Jones, now 28, turned himself in on Monday and was charged with 64 felony counts of sex with a student, each one punishable by 15 months in prison. He was jailed on \$500,000 bail.

Jones’ attorney, David Freedman, said: “People are quick to judge in matters when people are charged, especially when a teacher is accused of having a relationship with a student.”

The woman, now a college junior, used her real name in the essay, and it was published along with a photo, but The Associated Press is not identifying her because police consider her a victim of a sex crime.

Repeated attempts to reach her were unsuccessful. She changed the name of her former teacher, as well as that of another student she said had a sexual relationship with him, and all but one reference to her alma mater, Parkland High. Investigators refused to give details about their investigation, saying only that they spoke with the student last week.

Jones left the Winston-Salem school system in November 2008.

Freedman and district officials would not give details about his departure. □



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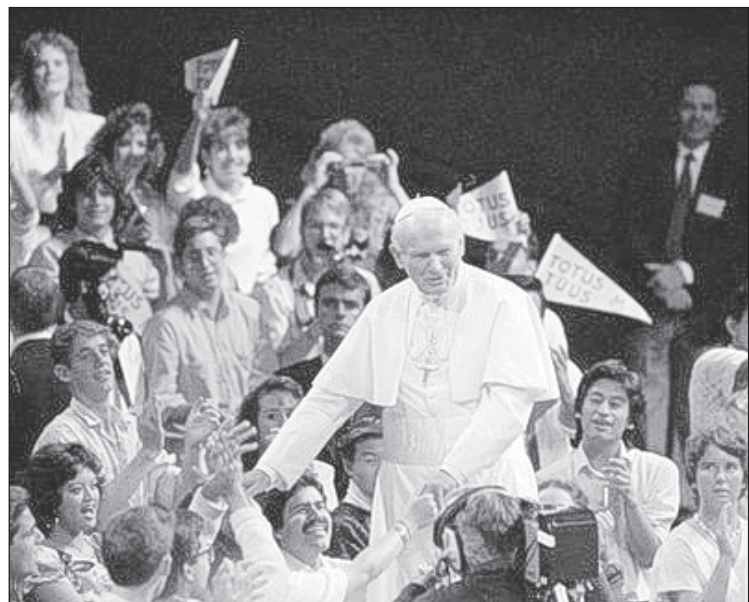


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US Catholics celebrate, debate John Paul II legacy



FILE - In a Sept. 15, 1987 file photo, Pope John Paul II walks among young people at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, Calif. The pontiff addressed the group along with satellite viewers in Portland, Denver and St. Louis. When Pope John Paul II is brought a step away from sainthood on Sunday, May 1, the event will be celebrated in cathedrals, high schools and homes by American Catholics who revere the Polish pontiff like no other head of the Roman Catholic church before him.

(AP Photo/Bob Galbraith, File)

By **TOM BREEN,**
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - When Pope John Paul II moves one step away from sainthood on Sunday, the event will be celebrated in cathedrals, high schools and homes by American Roman Catholics who revere the Polish pontiff like none before him. Other American Catholics see the occasion as a reminder that the charismatic, globe-trotting pope was a better leader for the world at large than for his own flock. John Paul II has only been dead for six years, but his 27-year tenure as leader of the church is already being

harkened to by believers as a golden age, when Catholicism faced down Soviet Communism and won admirers from all faiths. They see the scheduled beatification in Rome as the obvious way to recognize the man referred to by many as John Paul the Great. "It's a huge deal, especially here in the U.S., in this secularized culture that we're moving towards, what he called the culture of death," said Justin Braga, 28, of Waltham, Mass. "He was standing up against that. He wanted to maintain the sacredness of things." The focus on the first pope to truly harness the global media is a welcome break for many

Catholics weary of fights over doctrine and politics, and the still-raw anger generated by the sexual abuse scandals uncovered in the last decade. For some Catholics, John Paul II's papacy is inseparable from those troubles.

"There are lots of people saying he was a great pope for the world, but not nearly as great a pope for the church," said Thomas Groome, chairman of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College. "Many Catholics feel he did not embrace the spirit of renewal and reform heralded by the Second Vatican Council." Beatification is the next-to-last step before a Catholic is formally declared a saint, meaning the church teaches that person is definitely in heaven. In order to be beatified, which confers the title "blessed," a person's life has to stand up to a thorough investigation, and one miracle has to be attributed to the candidate. There's normally a five-year waiting period between a candidate's death and when the process begins, but Pope Benedict XVI waived that for his predecessor. John Paul II won't become a saint until he's canonized, which requires the documentation of another miracle, usually a cure for an illness that medical science can't explain. A beatified person can be venerated in local churches, but saints can be celebrated anywhere in the world. □

Old policy in place, West Point rejects lesbian



FILE - In this Nov. 24, 2010 file photo, Katherine Miller, a former cadet at the U.S. Military Academy who quit over the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, poses for a photo in her hometown of Findlay, Ohio. Miller has been rejected for readmission to the academy even as the military moves toward ending its 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. Officials at the U.S. Military Academy say they reached the only decision they could since the repeal of the policy is not in effect yet.

(AP Photo/John Seewer, File)

By **MICHAEL HILL,**
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. - A lesbian cadet who resigned from West Point last year has been rejected for readmission to the academy even as the military moves toward repealing its "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Officials at the U.S. Military Academy said they had no choice but to reject Katherine Miller's application, because the repeal of the policy barring gays from serving openly

in the military is not in effect yet.

The repeal did not occur immediately after President Barack Obama signed the legislation in December as training and certification are required before the ban is lifted. Miller left West Point in August, halfway through her stint at the academy, saying she couldn't lie about her sexuality anymore.

"While the don't ask, don't tell policy was recently changed and will be repealed, the effective date has not yet been determined," said Lt. Col. Sherri Reed, the academy's director of public affairs, in a statement. "Due to this situation, West Point is unable to offer her readmission at this time."

Miller enjoyed attending the historic academy looming over the Hudson River and she thrived there, ranking ninth in her class when she left. But she said keeping her sexuality a secret violated the academy's honor code and nagged at her conscience. It was hard for her to remain silent when her fellow cadets made derogatory comments about gays.

She filed her resignation just as she was to begin her junior year. The 21-year-old from Findlay, Ohio, instantly became a prominent face in the debate over gays serving openly. □

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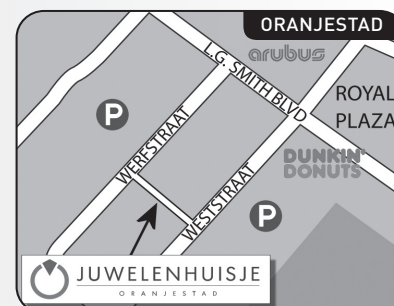
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Westin Easter Egg Hunt a hopping success!



PALM BEACH - Yes, the Easter Bunny even comes to the islands! The front lawn of the Westin Resort & Casino Aruba overflowed with little ones in pursuit of colorful eggs hidden amongst the tropical foliage during a special hunt coordinated by the resort's Kids Club staff. Luckily, there were plenty of eggs to go around for all, and even the Easter Bunny himself made an appearance.

Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt is an example of just one of many on a menu of activities the Westin here in Aruba implements for guests. A variety of activities are geared towards tots, tweens, teens, adults, and seniors; with many of those activities and programs tailored to bring the entire family—no matter the age—together. Weekly activities include fireside storytelling and marshmallow roasting, and stargazing through state-of-the-art telescopes. □



La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club Shows that It Cares



charge of making a difference. Their first initiative was undertaken in collaboration with Total Cleaning, a company which renders regular services to the resort. Total Cleaning donated 21 laundry baskets and La Cabana's Team filled these laundry baskets with bed sheets, blankets, pillow cases, bath towels, wash cloths

and kitchen towels, designed to make life at St. Michael Paviljoen, a bit more comfortable. St. Michael Paviljoen was overjoyed with the donation and the efforts of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club and Total Cleaning, since these items were really needed by the elderly residing in the facility. St. Michael Paviljoen

is one of three homes for the elderly, which are often infirm and limited in mobility. While the institutions are government subsidized they often rely on the goodness of community members for many of their urgent needs. Pictured here, the donation delivered by the caring team of La Cabana! □

ORANJESTAD - A part of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club's mission statement includes the following compelling sentence: "We take pride and ownership in our environment and social responsibilities." While the resort is always active, working on behalf of the island community at large, the house-keeping-department is especially aware of the importance of lending a helping hand. This year the department introduced the Gran Cambio team, putting in place a committee in



The Queen's Birthday is a totally orange affair



ORANJESTAD - The House of Orange is the collective name of the royal family in Holland. Queen Beatrix is the head of the family and crown prince Willem-Alexander and his Argentine wife Maxima are next in line for the crown.

Because of their name, orange is the color of Holland, the color of the Dutch national soccer team and the color of the streamer which flies majestically over the red, white and blue of the Dutch flag. So on April 30, the Queen's birthday, orange is the color of choice to wear, to wave or even to eat. At CILO City Lounge in the Renaissance Market-

place, it is party time on April 30. CILO will be decked out in orange in celebration. On Friday, April 29, the orange mood will prevail already, with live music by Angelo Koolman, lots of Dutch evergreens and orange Balashi beer on tap, complimentary 'oranjebitter' (liquor) and Dutch snacks; the orange mood will remain at CILO until the wee hours of the morning of the 30th. CILO is expecting you to come and celebrate; don't forget! A funny detail: April 30 is actually not Queen Beatrix' birthday - it is her mother's, former Queen Juliana's date of birth and kept as a form of honoring her. □

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With more disciplines this year the Pancake Gallery Foundation strengthen their team with a former Ralph Lauren designer for the Fashion workshop, a critically acclaimed international rapper for the Rap & poetry workshop and a big screen actor and award winning poet for the Theater workshops.

These are just a few of the new teachers that are on board and compliment an extraordinary team of professionals from around the world.

With these additions to the program the Pancake Gallery Foundation has also decided to extend the age group for Art Rules Aruba from 13-21 to 13-25.

With the rapid popularity and growth of Art Rules Aruba the Pancake Gallery is also putting more focus on the educational side of the workshops, stating that "this year we want to put emphasis on offering a broader curriculum for each discipline that also offers more theory and goes into depth with each workshop".

Classes will also again be offered in both San Nicolaas and Oranjestad, encouraging young-ones from all over the island to participate.

Registration is OPEN now!! This year applicants can only sign up online at www.artrulesaruba.com Registrations opened on April 15th at midnight and closes on May 30th. Applicants are required to write a motivation letter to be selected and accepted into the program. The program fee is Afl.200/\$112 and covers the 2 week workshop program, transportation to the classes, beverages and snacks during classes, an Art Rules Aru-



ba T-shirt and all class materials.

For more information visit www.artrulesaruba.com or contact The Pancake Gallery at info@pancakegallery.com

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Florida legislature nears Medicaid overhaul vote

By LIZETTE ALVAREZ

© 2011 New York Times

DAVIE, Fla. — A crucial experiment in the future of Medicaid is playing out in Florida, where both houses of the Legislature are vying to find ways to drastically cut costs, manage care and reduce waste and fraud.

The cuts and changes being sought by the Republican-led Legislature and encouraged by the new Republican governor, Rick Scott, a wealthy former hospital company executive, are deeper than those in many other states.

In the past 11 years, the cost of Medicaid in Florida has grown to \$21 billion from \$9 billion and amounts to a third of the state budget. The federal government pays more than half the tab.

“There is a consensus that the Medicaid system is irretrievably broken,” said State Sen. Joe Negron, a Republican who took the lead in writing the Senate bill, which is expected to come to a vote before the legislative session ends a week from Friday. The House approved its bill this month. The changes could go into effect as early as next year.

“I’ve never seen something where we are spending \$21 billion and nobody is happy,” Negron said. “We were not going to kick the can down the road another

year.”

Relying loosely on a five-year-old pilot program to shift care to HMOs, Florida lawmakers are poised to scrap the traditional model in which the state pays doctors for each service they perform. Instead, almost all of Florida’s Medicaid recipients would be funneled into state-authorized, for-profit HMOs or networks run by hospitals or doctors. HMOs or networks would also manage the long-term care of the elderly, shifting them away from nursing homes and leading to an expansion in-home care. Lawmakers who support the bill say the state needs this flexibility in curtailing the exploding cost of Medicaid.

The Florida legislation is being closely watched by other states as they tackle the rapid growth of enrollment and the cost of care. Because Florida has 3 million Medicaid patients and a high number of uninsured people, a swift jump into managed care would be significant. And while many states use managed care for Medicaid users in one form or other, the Florida proposals stand out because they would set possible limits on services, giving the state and HMOs the right to deny some benefits that are now offered to patients. This would require federal permission.

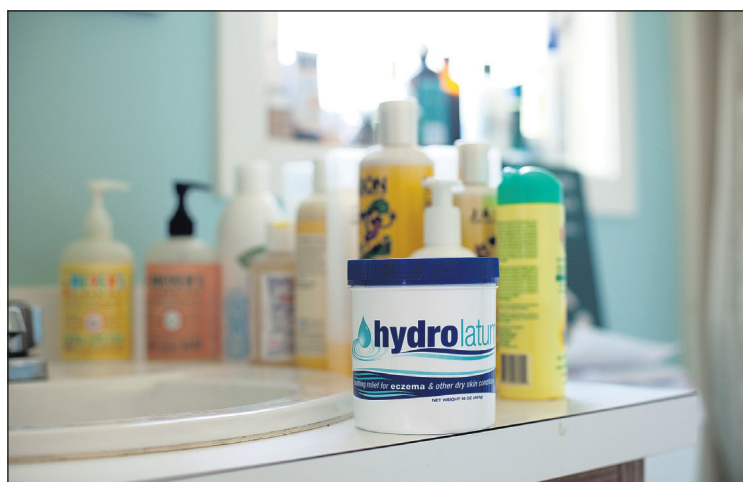
“If Florida adopts this method of looking at managed care, other states will definitely look at that, and this is a tool we can use,” said Michael W. Garner, the president of the Florida Association of Health Plans, which lobbies for HMOs. “The toolbox is pretty empty right now.”

But there is concern across the state that the emerging proposals will not only reduce available health care for millions, but also leave the most vulnerable — the disabled, the elderly and those with serious chronic illnesses — at risk. An April study of the pilot program by Georgetown University raised doubts about patient services and cost efficiency, saying there was too little data. For some, the proposals hold a fearful prospect.

Vicki Ahern, 40, a single mother in Davie, Fla., who is her son’s full-time caregiver, spent several years trying to cobble together a network of specialists and physical therapists across several counties to help her son, Keith, 16, grapple with muscular dystrophy, spinal injuries and debilitating pain.

Then, suddenly, the network crumbled. With 10 days’ notice, Ahern said, Keith was shuttled into the HMO pilot project, which transferred Medicaid patients in five counties to HMOs and hospital- or doctor-run networks. □

Organic Skincare, Hair Products Can Trigger Allergies



Vicki Ahern and her son, Keith, 16, at their home in Davie, Fla. Ahern built a network of health care providers to help Keith deal with muscular dystrophy, but he was added to a state HMO pilot project that takes patients out of Medicaid to cut costs.

(Maggie Steber/The New York Times)

By ALEXANDRA ZISSU

© 2011 New York Times

Wenonah Madison-Sauer, 36, co-owner of a farm and take-out restaurant on Martha’s Vineyard, tries to be eco-conscious about not just food but also cosmetics. For her first-born son, Waylon, she used biodynamic calendula-based

products anointed by NaTrue, an international third-party certifier of natural and organic skincare and cosmetics. But her second, Amos, now 2 1/2, is gooped up with Hydro-latur, a creamy petroleum-derived, non-organic cream that comes in a large plastic tub. Amos has food allergies,

which have resulted in atopic dermatitis and eczema. Much of what he is allergic to (tree nuts, peanuts, seeds and coconut) is found — in oil form as emollients — in organic products.

“I didn’t want to use Hydrolatur,” Madison-Sauer said, but “it’s the only thing that locks in moisture and protects him against certain things touching his skin. It seals him.”

While most skincare and hair care is filled with potential allergy triggers, it turns out that organic versions are, to green parents’ dismay, among the worst offenders. “Generally the more expensive organic products have more allergens; they’re in their purest form,” said Lisa Borden, 39, a Toronto-based mother whose 8-year-old daughter is allergic to peanuts, nuts and kiwi. Dr. Hauschka, one popular certified natural line celebrated for

its purity, is chockablock with potential irritants: Its products contain organic almond, sunflower, peanut, macadamia and argan oils.

This could be worrisome (however needlessly) in a lip balm. “Allergy from ingested tree nuts is a Type I anaphylaxis-type allergy, which can be life threatening,” said Dr. Maryann Mikhail, an attending dermatologist at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. More common is a Type IV, contact allergy — not “life-threatening,” Mikhail said, though it can cause “horrible eczema.”

Getting advice on what cosmetics are safe can be a game of hot potato: Brands from Dr. Hauschka to the dermatologist’s office staple Cetaphil all urge consumers to talk to their health care providers, while many doctors tell their patients to check with manu-

facturers. Dr. Amy Wechsler, a dermatologist in New York whose daughter is allergic to salmon (and formerly to eggs), has called companies herself and suggests patients read all labels, since allergens pop up in unexpected places.

But labels with long chemical names can be hard to decipher. Labeling laws in the United States are more relaxed than those in Europe and Canada, which mandate clearer warnings of potential allergens. Online message boards like the Allergic Living Talking Allergies Forum offer commiseration and the latest news on companies that have reformulated products with no warning (the newish fragrance-free version of Burt’s Bees baby shampoo contains sweet almond oil, the perfumed one does not), but there’s no go-to database of safe cosmetics for people with food allergies. □

Afghan officer opens fire, kills 9 Americans



An Afghan soldier holds his rifle outside a gateway to Kabul's airport following a shooting incident on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in Kabul, Afghanistan. An Afghan Army officer opened fire on foreign troops Wednesday after an argument at the airport, the latest in a spate of deadly incidents that have occurred inside government or military installations, the Defense Ministry said.

(AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A veteran Afghan military pilot said to be distressed over his personal finances opened fire at Kabul airport after an argument Wednesday, killing eight U.S. troops and an American civilian contractor. Those killed were trainers and advisers for the nascent Afghan air force. The shooting

was the deadliest attack by a member of the Afghan security forces, or an insurgent impersonating them, on coalition troops or Afghan soldiers or policemen. There have been seven such attacks so far this year. Although the individual circumstances may differ, the incidents of Afghans turning against their coalition partners

seem to reflect growing anti-foreigner sentiment independent of the Taliban. Afghans are increasingly tired of the nearly decade-long war and think their lives have not improved despite billions of dollars in international aid.

The Taliban, who are currently staging their opening salvos of the spring fighting season, boasted that the gunman in Wednesday's airport attack was a militant impersonating an army officer.

This claim did not seem credible, however.

Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said the gunman was an officer who had served as a pilot in the Afghan military for the past 20 years. The gunman —

identified as Ahmad Gul, 48, of Tarakhail district in Kabul province — died in an exchange of fire that followed his attack.

The gunman's brother insisted he was not a Taliban sympathizer.

"He was under economic pressures and recently he sold his house. He was not in a normal frame of mind because of these pressures," said the brother, Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sahibi. "He was going through a very difficult period of time in his life."

"He served his country for years," Sahibi told Tolo, a private television station in Kabul. "He loved his people and his country. He had no link with Taliban or al-Qai-

da."

Sahibi said his brother was wounded four or five times during his military service — once seriously when his helicopter crashed.

The shooting took place at 10:25 a.m. at Kabul's airport. The gunman opened fire at a meeting in an operations room at the Afghan Air Corps following an argument with foreigners, Afghan defense officials said.

It was unclear what the argument was about.

"Suddenly, in the middle of the meeting, shooting started," said Afghan Air Corps spokesman Col. Bahader, who uses only one name. "After the shooting started, we saw a number of Afghan army officers and soldiers running out



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Palestinian officials: Unity agreement reached



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, right, and Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas, left, speak as they head the first cabinet meeting of the new coalition government at Abbas' office, in Gaza City. Palestinian officials from the rival Fatah and Hamas movements said Wednesday, April 27, 2011, they have reached an initial agreement on ending a four-year-old rift that has left them divided between rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra, File)

By IBRAHIM BARZAK,
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinians have reached initial agreement on reuniting their rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza, officials from both sides said Wednesday, a step that would remove a main obstacle in the way of peace efforts with Israel.

Even before the agreement was to be signed, however, key questions about how to unify rival security forces remained unsolved. Israel immediately rejected the prospect of a Palestinian government including Hamas, and the U.S. expressed similar concerns.

Fatah and Hamas officials said the plan, brokered by Egypt, calls for the formation of a single caretaker government in the coming days. The government would administer day-to-day business until new presidential and legislative elections are held in exactly one year. "We have a comprehensive agreement now. We have agreed on all the issues," said Azzam al-Ahmed, the chief Fatah negotiator in the reconciliation talks. It was not clear when the agreement would be signed. Hani Masri, a member of a Palestinian delegation that met with Hamas leaders in Syria and the new leadership in Egypt,

said the political upheavals in both countries pushed the two rivals together and "made the agreement possible." Al-Ahmed said that under the deal, Fatah and Hamas security forces would be unified and "restructured" under "Arab supervision."

In a sign of the sticky issues that remain unresolved, Hamas officials in Gaza said their security forces would retain control over the coastal strip for the time being. The Hamas officials spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement in Cairo later Wednesday.

The issue of the security forces lies at the heart of the Palestinian rift. Fatah and Hamas formed a short-lived unity government in 2007, only to see it disintegrate in several days of fighting in Gaza.

Hamas forces routed Fatah loyalists and have ruled Gaza since, leaving the Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas in control of only the West Bank. The Palestinians claim both territories, located on opposite sides of Israel, for a future independent state, along with east Jerusalem.

The internal rift has prevented the Palestinians from speaking in one voice. That, in turn, has made it next to impossible to move ahead with peace efforts with Israel. □

Former First Lady of South Vietnam dies in Rome

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON and MARGIE MASON, Associated Press
Victor L. Simpson and Margie Mason, Associated Press — Wed Apr 27, 6:57 am ET

ROME — Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, the outspoken beauty who served as South Vietnam's unofficial first lady early on in the Vietnam War and earned the nickname "Dragon Lady" for her harsh criticism of protesting Buddhist monks and communist sympathizers, has died at age 86, a Rome funeral home said Wednesday. She died on Easter Sunday in a Rome hospital. The Gualandri funeral home said she was registered as Tran Le Xuan, her original Vietnamese name, meaning "Beautiful Spring."

Madame Nhu lived in the former presidential palace in South Vietnam's capital, Saigon, with her husband, the powerful head of the se-



FILE - In this March 10, 1963, file photo, Tran Lexuan, known as Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, holds a press conference at the Vietnamese Embassy in Paris. A Rome funeral home says Madame Nhu, a controversial figure from the Vietnam war era who was first lady of the Diem regime, has died in a Rome hospital aged 86. The Gualandri funeral home said Wednesday, April 24, 2011, that Madame Nhu died on Easter Sunday.

cret police, and his bachelor brother, President Ngo Dinh Diem, who served from 1955 to 1963. She took on the role of first lady as U.S.-backed South Vietnam fought northern communist forces before Washington broadened its military effort.

In the early 1960s, the trend-setting Madame Nhu was often photographed with her bouffant hairdo and glamorous clothes, including a tight version of the traditional silk tunic known as the ao dai, which showcased her slender body.

She was equally well known for her fiery rhetoric, and was particularly outspoken against Buddhist monks who were setting themselves on fire to protest Diem's crackdown — once saying she would "clap hands at seeing another monk barbecue show, for one cannot be responsible for the madness of others." □

Nigeria: Delayed vote looms in northern states

By JON GAMBRELL,
Associated Press

KADUNA, Nigeria — Two states in oil-rich Nigeria hit hard by religious rioting that killed at least 500 people following the country's presidential election will hold gubernatorial races Thursday. Whether the public emerges from ruined neighborhoods to vote amid burned churches and mosques remains another question. Bauchi and Kaduna states in Nigeria's Muslim north will hold the local races after the majority of the country voted Tuesday in the polls. Official results have yet to be released by the country's Independent National Electoral Commission from those races, as ballot box thefts and violence accompanied the polls in Africa's most populous nation. Though these elections were better than previously marred ones carried out in the 12-year-old democracy, the troubles showed Nigeria still faces challenges in holding credible elections.

"You see, in this country, de-



Nigerian voters wait to cast their ballots on April 26, at a station in Jos, the capital of Plateau state. Nigerian police mobilised Wednesday as results flowed in from state governor polls in Africa's most populous nation, entering the final phase of an election season hit by deadly riots.

mocracy is premature," said Abdullah Fanap, 68, who voted Tuesday in the rural village of Yelwa in Plateau state. "Here in the north, we have a long way to go."

The gubernatorial races carry tremendous importance because governors represent the closest embodiment of power many ever see in a nation of 150 million people. The positions provide many politicians with personal fiefdoms

where oil money sluices into unwatched state coffers that exceed those of neighboring nations.

In Kaduna, 111 miles (180 kilometers) away from the country's capital of Abuja, the state's Christian governor faces a challenge from a Muslim opposition already emboldened by presidential results showing the region voted against the ruling People's Democratic Party. □



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Doctor says 12 protesters killed in Yemen



A Yemeni girl held by her father, chants slogans along with anti-government protestors during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Witnesses said at least 18 Yemeni cities and towns have heeded an opposition call for a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience to bring down the long-serving president.

(AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

By AHMED AL-HAJ,
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemeni security forces opened fire on a massive anti-government demonstration in the capital Sanaa on Wednesday, killing 12 protesters and wounding some 190, a doctor at the

scene said.

The violence broke out as about 100,000 government opponents filled a landmark square at the epicenter of the uprising, spilling into the streets around the state TV building. Witnesses said security forces, including mem-

bers of the elite Republican Guard, fired live ammunition and tear gas into the crowd to break it up. Snipers were seen on nearby rooftops aiming at the crowd. "Many of the dead and wounded were shot in the head and torso," doctor Mohammed al-Ibahi told The Associated Press.

Yemenis in at least 18 cities and towns launched a civil disobedience campaign Wednesday in an escalation of their more than two-month-old uprising to bring down long-serving President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Shops, schools and government offices were shuttered. The closures are planned twice weekly until Saleh steps down, activists said. Inspired by revolts across the Arab world, Yemenis have staged near-daily protests calling for the ouster of Saleh, the country's ruler of 32 years. At times, millions have flooded the streets of the capital and other cities and towns. □

Syrian city at heart of uprising under siege



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, people carry pictures of Syrian President Bashar Assad and his father late President Hafez Assad as Syrian military police carry a coffin preparing to send the bodies of six killed soldiers and security force members to their hometowns for burial, at a military hospital in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, April 27, 2011. The agency did not report the circumstances of their deaths but they are believed to have been victims of the ongoing civil unrest against the government. The Arabic on the coffin reads: 'Martyr Yehya Haj Omar.'

(AP Photo)

By BASSEM MROUE,
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The city at the heart of Syria's monthlong uprising ran low on food, water and medicine Wednesday as the army sent in more tanks and reinforcements as part of a widening crackdown against opponents of President Bashar Assad's authoritarian regime, witnesses said.

Two residents in Daraa said at least five army officers had sided with demonstrators, and conscripted soldiers sent into the city were quietly refusing orders to detain people at checkpoints and were allowing some people through to get scarce supplies. But the Syrian government denied

that there had been any splits in the military, which is seen as fiercely loyal to Assad.

Gunfire and sporadic explosions were heard in Daraa, two days after the military rolled in — backed by tanks and snipers. The army also deployed tanks around the Damascus suburb of Douma and the coastal city of Baniyas, the site of large demonstrations recently.

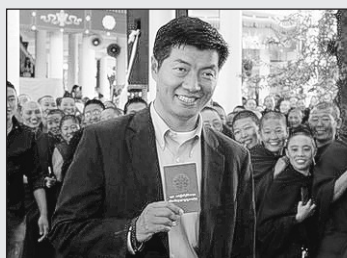
"We have no electricity, no water, no telephones and no bread," resident Abdullah Abazeid told The Associated Press by satellite telephone from Daraa, where the uprising began more than five weeks ago. "The situation is terrible." □

Tibetan exile community get new political leader

By ASHWINI BHATIA,
Associated Press

DHARMSALA, India — A Harvard legal scholar has been elected the next prime minister of Tibet's government-in-exile, officials announced Wednesday, paving the way for new leadership in the Tibetan community as the Dalai Lama gives up political power.

Lobsang Sangay, 43, a lawyer and scholar who has spent years studying international law and conflict resolution, won with 55 percent of the votes cast by tens of thou-



sands of Tibetans around the world, chief election commissioner Jamphel Choesang said in the north Indian town of Dharmasala, where the exile government is based.

He praised the Dalai Lama on Wednesday for handing over political power and vowed to

continue Tibet's struggle for autonomy.

"I hope, one, to keep the Tibet issue alive and so that the sacrifices made inside Tibet and the ongoing suffering of Tibetans will not be forgotten by the world," he said by phone from Washington.

While the government-in-exile has existed for decades, it has long been seen as a powerless reflection of the wishes of the Dalai Lama, the exiled 75-year-old Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader worshipped as a near-deity by many followers. □

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MIT class studies Kenyan slum's clinic quandary



In this photo taken Thursday, March 24, 2011, Alexandra Geertz, front, with Sydney Connolly, wearing green scarf, with Kevin Kung, blue shirt 2nd left, and Nirav Patel, left, as they tour the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The four MIT graduate students toured the slum's back alleys, past the one-room tin shacks, and jumped over slimy streams of sewage to find an answer about the little usage of a nearby U.S.-funded medical clinic.

By JASON STRAZIUSO, Associated Press
NAIROBI, Kenya — The clinic's paperwork carried a common medical symbol — a snake coiling around a wooden rod. But that simple insignia sparked a rumor in Nairobi's largest slum: The U.S.-funded clinic was a center for snake worshipping. For the poor residents of Kibera, who have little exposure to the medical community, that conclusion was logical. Africans sometimes turn to traditional healers or witch doctors. But the false rumor was just a part of a puzzle for the clinic: If the clinic is high quality, close by and nearly free, why weren't more slum residents using it? Students from one of America's most exclusive universities were called in to find out,

as part of their class aimed at increasing efficiencies of health facilities in Third World countries. They soon found themselves in a crowded and fetid slum, one of the poorest in the world. The clinic is run by Carolina for Kibera, an aid group co-founded by a University of North Carolina graduate and two Kenyans. The group turned to Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Anjali Sastry, who sends graduate students across Africa and India for her Global Health Delivery Project class. The aim is for students to identify and study systemic problems at clinics or hospitals and offer lasting solutions. The four students who traveled to Nairobi last month squeezed through Kibera's muddy back alleys, past one-

room tin shacks and jumped over slimy streams of sewage in search of ways to increase the clinic's client base. The answer could be found only by entering Nairobi's most cast-down homes and listening to a poor but proud population. Many residents, the students heard, didn't even know about the CFK clinic. Others cited social stigmas, like the idea that if something is free it's low quality. For many, the clinic was simply a mystery. "Someone said, 'They draw blood and we don't know what they do with it,'" said Nirav Patel, 29, one of the four researchers. He was so committed to finding out why the clinic wasn't attracting more patients that he intended to do interviews at night, when more men were at home. But the level of crime made walking around at night too risky. Kibera is a maze of rusty shacks crammed between open sewers. Bags of human waste — dubbed "flying toilets" — are thrown from houses after dark because criminal attacks make public toilets too risky. Fly-covered fish heads discarded from upmarket establishments are a delicacy in a neighborhood where most people live on \$1 a day. The four MIT researchers visited 75 homes, learning how much people made (not much), what they valued in doctor visits (quality and respect) and why they didn't go to the clinic (many didn't know they could). □

Long absence weighs on Canada election challenger

By ROB GILLIES, Associated Press
TORONTO — Michael Ignatieff should have a lot going for him in his race to be Canada's next prime minister — charismatic, telegenic, a public intellectual whose expertise on human rights has done his country credit. But there's a problem — he spent about half his life abroad, and as Monday's election approaches, that absence has become one more burden weighing him down in the polls. His Conservative opponents, favorites to win another term, are making relentless use of the more than 30 years he lived in Europe and the U.S. "Michael Ignatieff. Just visiting," goes one election ad. "Back in Canada. But for how long?" mocks another. Meanwhile, the verve and braininess that captivated his TV audiences in Britain, or his students at Harvard, have failed to galvanize the fortunes of the Liberal Party that he took over in 2009. Stephen Harper, prime minister since 2006, looks set to triumph again, and this time perhaps achieve the outright majority that has so far eluded him. If so, it will be the Conservative leader's third straight victory, and he will surely present it as further progress toward killing the notion that the Liberals, once the home of such luminaries as Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, are Canada's "natural party of government." "Are we witnessing the strange death of Liberal Canada?" Asked John Ivison, a

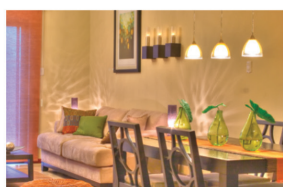
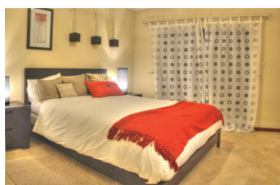


FILE PHOTO - Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff speaks during a news conference at his national campaign office in Toronto. Ignatieff should have a lot going for him in his race to be Canada's next prime minister - charismatic, telegenic, a public intellectual whose expertise on human rights has done his country credit. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Aaron Harris)

respected political commentator, in the online National Post on Tuesday. He wrote after EKOS, a private polling company, shocked Canadians by showing the Conservatives at 33.7 percent, the New Democratic Party at 28 and the Liberals at 23.7, meaning Ignatieff wouldn't even serve as leader of the opposition in Parliament. The pollsters said they questioned 3,000 voters and gave a margin of error of 1.8 percentage points. The surprise surge by the leftist NDP, the Quebec nationalists' perennial wild card role, and Conservative policies that have seen Canada through the worldwide recession in relatively good shape — all these are working against 63-year-old Ignatieff even as he remains relatively unknown to Canadians. His friends in England and the U.S. are dismayed about the rough ride he has encountered. □

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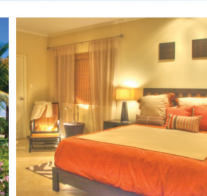
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Libyan tribes call on Kadhafi to go

MISRATA, Libya – Libya's tribes urged Moamer Kadhafi on Wednesday to cede power, as rebels backed by NATO air strikes said they forced the strongman's missiles out of range of the lifeline port of Misrata.

Chiefs or representatives of 61 tribes from across the North African country called for an end to Kadhafi's four-decade rule, in a joint statement released by French writer Bernard-Henri Levy.

"Faced with the threats weighing on the unity of our country, faced with the manoeuvres and propaganda of the dictator and his family, we solemnly declare: Nothing will divide us," said the statement, released on Wednesday in Benghazi.

"We share the same ideal of a free, democratic and united Libya.

"The Libya of tomorrow, once the dictator has gone, will be a united Libya, with Tripoli as its capital and where we will at last be free to build a civil society according to our own wishes," it said.

Levy has become an unofficial spokesman in Paris for the revolt and is credited with pressing President Nicolas Sarkozy to mobilise interna-



Libyan rebels parade along a seaside promenade in their stronghold of Benghazi. Libya's tribes urged Moamer Kadhafi on Wednesday to cede power, as rebels backed by NATO air strikes said they forced the strongman's missiles out of range of the lifeline port of Misrata.

tional political and military support for it.

"Each of the tribes in Libya is represented by at least a representative. In this list of 61 signatures, some tribes are represented 100 percent, others are still divided," he said. Their call came as rebels said they had managed to push back Kadhafi's forces and secure the port of besieged Misrata, a day after it came under sustained rocket fire.

The insurgents said NATO raids overnight enabled them to force Kadhafi's troops 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the city, which is pressed by

regime forces from the east, west and south.

That put Kadhafi's Grad rockets out of range of the port, an aid conduit for rebels in the western city of half a million people under siege for more than seven weeks.

Further west, Kadhafi forces were massed in force in an apparent bid to recapture the Dehiba border post with Tunisia, a Western military source said. Witnesses said the area was rocked by artillery and mortar fire. "There is a lot of fire in the area at the foot of the mountains," said a taxi driver at the border, 200

kilometres (125 miles) south of Ras Jdir, the main crossing point into Tunisia that the rebels seized on Thursday.

Security sources in Tunis said Kadhafi fighters tried earlier Wednesday to enter Tunisia at a point south of Dehiba in a bid to sneak up on the rebels, but were stopped by Tunisian forces.

Loyalists also again blasted the western rebel-held town of Zintan with rockets and gunfire as they have been since Sunday, medics and a witness said. Meanwhile, influential US Senator John McCain said Washington should arm the rebels. "There is a possibility if not a probability of a stalemate, and that should be of deep concern to us," the former presidential candidate and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee told AFP in Paris.

"The United States needs to recognise the TNC (Transitional National Council) as France and Italy have done. They need to get supplies and equipment into the liberation forces and we need to get American air power back into the fight." McCain said he remains opposed to sending US ground troops to Libya, but confirmed that he supported

sending weapons to the rebels.

"I think we could do the same thing that we did in the Afghan struggle against the Russians. There are ways to get weapons in without direct US supplying," he said, referring to US covert action in the 1980s.

Speaking to AFP before the rebels claimed they drove regime forces back from Misrata, the military spokesman in the rebels' eastern stronghold of Benghazi said Kadhafi was determined to destroy the port. "This port is too much of a headache for Kadhafi so he wants to destroy it at whatever cost," said Colonel Ahmed Omar Bani, military spokesman of the Transitional National Council (TNC).

Hitting Kadhafi's troops, he said, remained a challenge even for NATO's forces as loyalists were using civilian areas in the outskirts -- schools, shops and farms -- to hide troops and weapons.

"It is still hard for NATO to catch them. Kadhafi is staying far from the centre because it is safe for him," he said, warning that losing the port would be a "real disaster," leaving civilians stranded without aid. □

A case for hell



By **ROSS DOUTHAT**
© 2011 New York Times

Here's a revealing snapshot of religion in America. On Easter Sunday, two of the top three books on Amazon.com's Religion and Spirituality best-seller list mapped the geography of the afterlife. One was "Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back," an account of a 4-year-old's near-death experience, as dictated to his pastor father. The other was "Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived," in which the evangelical preacher Rob Bell argues that hell might not exist.

The publishing industry knows its audience. Even in our supposedly disenchanted age, large majorities of Americans believe in God and heaven, miracles and prayer. But belief in hell lags well behind, and the fear of damnation seems to have evaporated. Near-death stories are reliable sellers: There's another book about a child's return from paradise, "The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven," just a little further down the Amazon rankings. But you'll search the best-seller list in vain for "The Investment Banker Who Came Back From Hell."

In part, hell's weakening grip on the religious imagination is a consequence of growing pluralism. Bell's book begins with a provocative question: Are Christians required to believe that Gandhi is in hell for being Hindu? The mahatma is a distinctive case, but swap in "my Hindu/Jewish/Buddhist neighbor" for Gandhi, and you can see why many religious Americans find the idea of eternal punishment for wrong belief increasingly incredible.

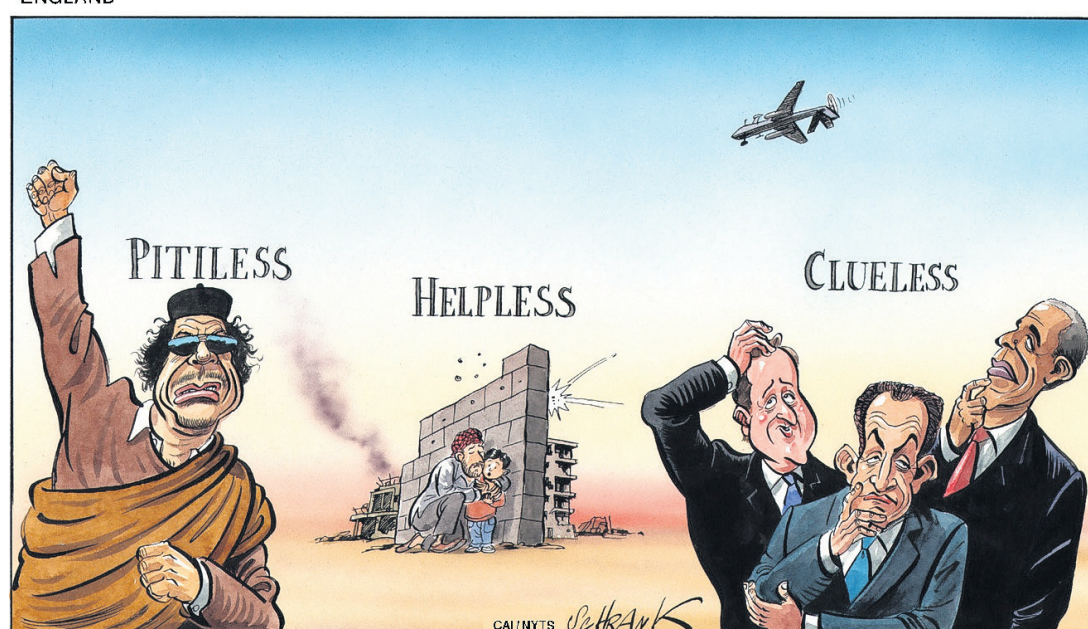
But the more important factor in hell's eclipse, perhaps, is a peculiar paradox of modernity. As our lives have grown longer and more comfortable, our sense of outrage at human suffering — its scope, and its apparent randomness — has grown sharper as well. The argument that a good deity couldn't have made a world so rife with cruelty is a staple of atheist polemic, and every natural disaster inspires a round of soul-searching over how to reconcile with God's omnipotence with human anguish.

These debates ensure that earthly infernos get all the press. Hell means the Holocaust, the suffering in Haiti, and all the ordinary "hellmouths" (in the novelist Norman Rush's resonant phrase) that can open up beneath our feet. And if it's hard for the modern mind to understand why a good God would allow such misery on a temporal scale, imagining one who allows eternal suffering seems not only offensive but absurd. Doing away with hell, then, is a natural way for pastors and theologians to make their God seem more humane. The problem is that this move also threatens to make human life less fully human.

Atheists have license to scoff at damnation, but to believe in God and not in hell is ultimately to disbelieve in the reality of human choices. If there's no possibility of saying no to paradise then none of our no's have any real meaning either. They're like home runs or strikeouts in a children's game where nobody's keeping score.

In this sense, a doctrine of universal salvation turns out to be as deterministic as the more strident forms of scientific materialism. Instead of making us prisoners of our glands and genes, it makes us prisoners of God himself. We can check out any time we want, but we can never really leave.

The doctrine of hell, by contrast, assumes that our choices are real, and that we are the choices that we make. □



Between Torment and Happiness



By **MAUREEN DOWD**
© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — April is the cruelest month for Chrissy Lee Polis.

The 22-year-old stopped by the Rosedale, Md., McDonald's, just east of Baltimore, last week.

Two patrons, an 18-year-old woman named Teonna Monae Brown and a 14-year-old girl, seemed to come out of nowhere and began ferally assaulting Polis.

The savage pair may have been disturbed at the prospect that Polis was transgender.

"They said, 'That's a dude. That's a dude. And she's in the female bathroom,'" Polis told The Baltimore Sun.

The attackers spit on her, threw her on the floor, kicked her in the face and back, punched her in the nose, ripped her earrings out of her earlobes, dragged her by her hair across the restaurant and only stopped when she began to have an epileptic seizure and an older woman in a white track suit intervened.

A McDonald's employee, who captured it all on his

cellphone, was fired after his video went viral on YouTube. "They all sat there and watched," Polis told The Sun in a poignant video interview. "I think it's a shame that people of my preference, I don't care if you dress like a guy or a girl or anything, I feel like people should not have to be afraid to go out their house." With long brown hair, a slender frame, a feminine manner and a Baltimore accent, Polis said her family had told her that she did not need to explain herself, that she should "be who you are and go as you are."

But people at parties sometimes want to fight her.

"I have been raped before, too, because of who I am," she said, adding: "It's bringing me down, slowly but surely down."

The suspects have been charged with assault, and the Baltimore County state's attorney office is determining whether it classifies as a hate crime.

A week before the attack, Maryland's Senate shelved a measure extending anti-discrimination protections to people who openly change their gender identity even though, as The Sun editorialized, "It would have sent a powerful signal that transgender people are not fair game for bigots."

A rally against transgender violence at the Rosedale McDonald's on Monday night featured Polis' mother, grandmother and a crowd of 300, singing "We Shall

Overcome." Chrissy, no doubt afraid, stayed home. Her mother, Renee Carr, told The Washington Blade, a gay newspaper, that she supported her daughter "100 percent" and "I even carried her pocketbook on the way to the bus stop as a kid."

Renee Richards' father never talked to her about her sex change, but he did once chase after her in his car to bring her a purse she'd forgotten.

An early icon for the transgender community, Richards is the subject of Eric Drath's ESPN documentary playing at the Tribeca Film Festival.

"Renee" recounts the painful transformation of Dr. Richard Raskind, a Yale-educated ophthalmologist who married a beautiful model and had a son, to Renee Richards, a competitor on the women's professional tennis circuit.

In the mid-1970s, when I covered tennis, Renee Richards was a supremely strange phenomenon as the pro tennis and legal worlds hotly debated the fairness of a "he/she" competing against the likes of Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. (Richards later coached Navratilova, helping with a couple of her Wimbledon championships.)

As John McEnroe notes in the film: "I was weirded out just watching her from a distance."

David Israel, a sports columnist on The Washington Star with me, wrote mordantly at the time: "Renee Richards proves that in sports the legs don't always go first." □

SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, April 28, 2011

Livan Hernandez faces scrutiny after PR drug trial



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Livan Hernandez hits the rosin bag after giving up a double to Pittsburgh Pirates' Garrett Jones that drove in a run in the Pirates 5-run first inning of the baseball game, Saturday, April 23, 2011, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

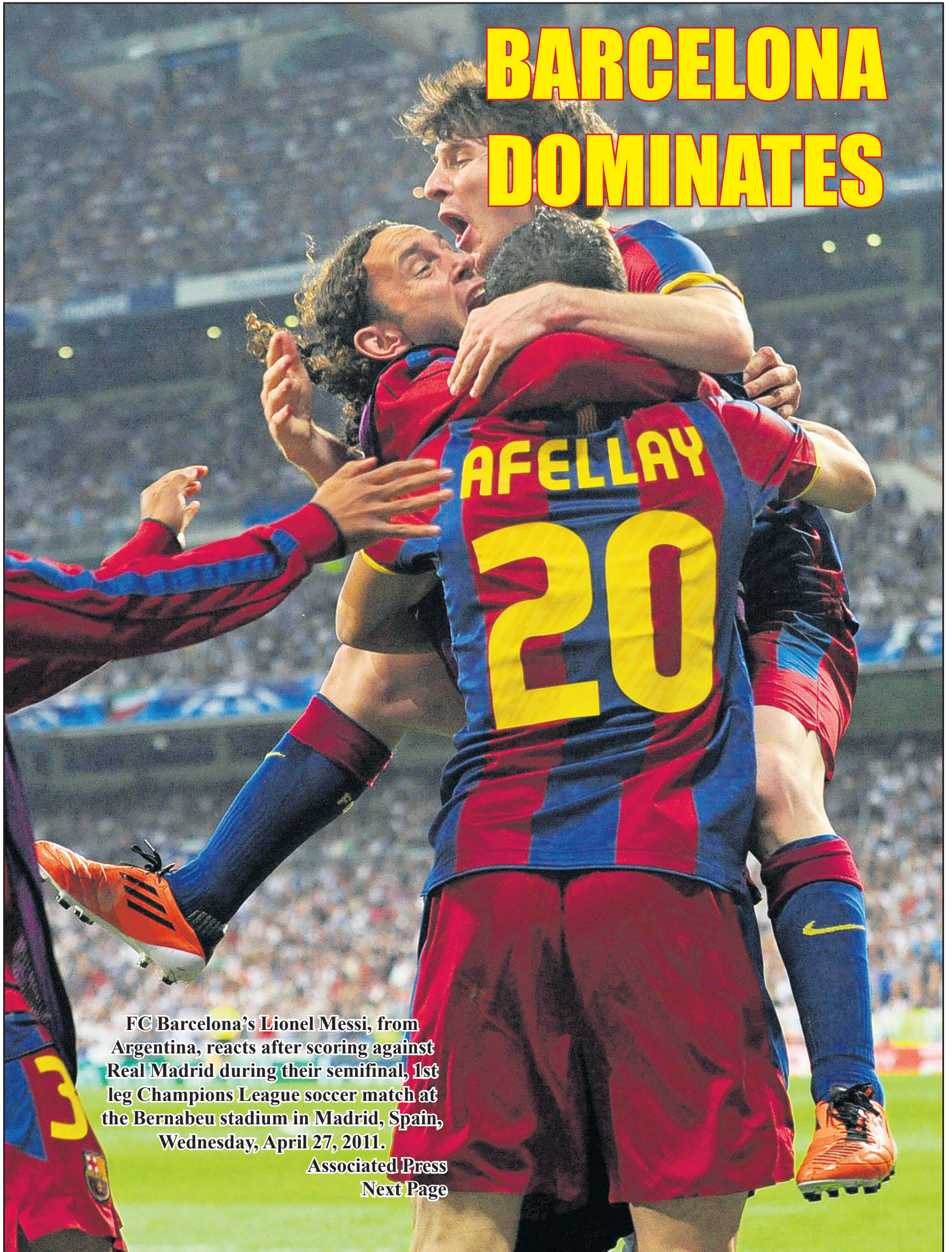
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Federal officials say they will meet with Major League Baseball representatives after the name of Washington Nationals pitcher Livan Hernandez surfaced in the trial of a convicted drug dealer.

Prosecutors in Puerto Rico presented evidence at the trial showing that drug dealer Angel Ayala Vazquez had several properties registered in Hernandez's name.

U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez and Javier Pena, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Caribbean division, said Wednesday they will meet with MLB officials in two weeks at baseball's request.

The Nationals said they are monitoring the situation. A team spokesman says Hernandez has said he won't comment on the matter. □

BARCELONA DOMINATES



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, from Argentina, reacts after scoring against Real Madrid during their semifinal, 1st leg Champions League soccer match at the Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

Associated Press
Next Page

Messi gives Barcelona 2-0 win over 10-man Madrid

MADRID (AP) — Lionel Messi lit up an ill-tempered Champions League semifinal on Wednesday with two goals in the last 15 minutes to give Barcelona a 2-0 victory at 10-man Real Madrid.

Barcelona dominated throughout but only managed to break through after Madrid midfielder Pepe was red-carded in the 61st at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Madrid coach Jose Mourinho was sent to the stands for protesting the decision, which left Madrid playing with 10 against Barcelona for the fourth straight game.

Messi guided substitute Ibrahim Afellay's cross through the legs of goalkeeper Iker Casillas to open the scoring in the 76th minute and with three minutes to play, the elusive Argentina forward brilliantly ghosted past three defenders before clipping the ball past Casillas for his 52nd goal of the season, and 11th in the Champions League.

"We came here with a lot of problems, we had four players from the second team on the bench, but we controlled the ball," said Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, whose team was without injured midfielder Andres Iniesta.

"Real Madrid didn't create any opportunities in the first half and to do this in this stadium in the Champions League semifinal is very difficult."

Mourinho has seen his team finish with 10 players in his last five matches against Barcelona, counting Inter Milan's 1-0 defeat at Barcelona in the semifinal return leg last year.

"If I say to (the referee) and to UEFA what I think and feel, my career ends today," Mourinho said. "One day I hope to get an answer to the question: why?"

It was Barcelona's first win in three games between the bitter rivals in 12 days after a 1-1 league draw and a 1-0 extra-time Copa del Rey final defeat. Madrid's defense in Tuesday's return leg will be short-handed with Pepe and Sergio Ramos both suspended. Ramos was booked for a foul on Messi in the 53rd.

Mourinho described progress to the final as "mission impossible" as he continued to bemoan his side's treatment by the referee. If Barcelona does close out the victory, Manchester United is most likely to be waiting in the May 28 Wembley final after the English side's 2-0 win at Schalke on Tuesday. However, Guar-



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, from Argentina, reacts after scoring against Real Madrid during their semifinal, 1st leg Champions League soccer match at the Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

diola said he wouldn't count out Mourinho's team yet.

"A team that has nine European Cups never gives up on a series, I'm convinced of that," Guardiola said. "We played a very good game. We controlled their counterattacks, their aerial game which is very dangerous."

Messi's 179th goal moved him ahead of Josep Samitier to trail only Cesar Rodriguez (235) and Laszlo Kubala (196)

in goals scored for the club.

"At 23 ... That's incredible," Guardiola said.

Both coaches had stoked tensions on the eve of the match, with Guardiola launching an expletive-filled attack against Mourinho, and the ill-will spilled over into the match.

Substitute Barcelona 'keeper Jose Manuel Pinto was the first to be sent off for a red card at halftime as the two teams skirmished while leav-

ing the field.

Pinto's sending off left Barcelona without a reserve 'keeper as the frustration of being unable to exploit 70 percent of the possession in the first 45 minutes seemed to boiled over. Pepe was then harshly sent off after clashing with Daniel Alves as he lunged for a ball and Mourinho was sent to the stands for sarcastically clapping and showing a thumbs up to the fourth official. □



Vancouver Canucks' Dan Hamhuis; Christian Ehrhoff, of Germany; Alex Burrows, Ryan Kesler and Mason Raymond celebrate Burrows' goal against the Chicago Blackhawks during the first period of Game 7 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Alex Burrows scored his second goal in overtime to give the Vancouver Canucks a dramatic 2-1 win over the Chicago Blackhawks in Game 7 of their NHL first-

round playoff series on Tuesday, eliminating the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Burrows, who took a penalty early in overtime, pounced on a Chris Campoli turnover and fired a slap shot over the right

Canucks dramatically eliminate Blackhawks

shoulder of rookie Chicago goalie Corey Crawford.

Burrows had opened the scoring 2:43 in, but Chicago captain Jonathan Toews scored his first goal of the playoffs with 1:56 left to force overtime.

Vancouver won the first three games of the series before the defending champions roared back with three straight victories, threatening to spoil the Canucks' Presidents Trophy-winning season and become just the fourth team in NHL history to erase an 0-3 series deficit.

After being eliminated from the last two postseasons by the Blackhawks, the Canucks finally returned the favor and will host Nashville in the second round.

Flyers 5, Sabres 2

In Philadelphia, the hosts won Game 7 of the first-round series against Buffalo to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The defending conference champions, who raced to a 4-0 lead and chased Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller in the third, must wait to learn their next opponent: Pittsburgh or Tampa Bay.

Braydon Coburn, Danny Briere, James van Riemsdyk, and Ville Leino all scored against Miller, and Dan Carcillo added a goal in the third.

Flyers goalie Brian Boucher, who may have solidified himself as the No. 1 goalie for as long as Philadelphia's postseason run lasts, made 25 saves but lost a bid at the Flyers' first shutout of the playoffs when Tyler Myers made it 4-1 in the third.

Brad Boyes scored on a late backhand for Buffalo to trim it to 5-2.

Canadiens 2, Bruins 1

In Montreal, the home team edged Boston to force a Game 7.

The decider is Wednesday in Boston, with the Bruins looking to beat the Canadiens for only the ninth time in 33 post-season series.

Montreal's Brian Gionta and Michael Cammalleri scored during two separate two-man advantages.

Dennis Seidenberg scored for Boston, which played more than half the game without ejected winger Milan Lucic but still outshot the Canadiens 32-27. Lucic was given a major for boarding and a game misconduct for a hit from behind on Jaroslav Spacek. □

Bulls win easily to eliminate Pacers

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls finally played like a top seed, knocking off the Indiana Pacers 116-89 in Game 5 on Tuesday to wrap up their NBA Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

The Bulls can breathe a little easier after getting a dominant performance by MVP candidate Derrick Rose and an emphatic win that came on the heels of four close games.

They can also turn their attention to the Eastern Conference semifinals, where they'll meet Atlanta or Orlando.

Rose scored 25 points and seemed fine after spraining an ankle in Game 4, hitting 8 of 17 shots. He dominated in the early going and was strong in the third after the Pacers pulled within four. He scored 10 points over the final six minutes, and Chicago ended the quarter on a 23-8 run to blow the game open.

Luol Deng had 24 points and Joakim Noah added 14 points and eight rebounds as Bulls won a playoff series for the first time since 2007.

Danny Granger scored 20 for the Pacers. Tyler Hansbrough added 14 points and 11 rebounds, but Indiana trailed the entire way and committed 21 turnovers.

Magic 101, Hawks 76

In Orlando, the hosts stayed alive by beating Atlanta, cutting the deficit to 3-2.

Jason Richardson scored 17

points and J.J. Redick added 14 for the Magic, who are aiming to be the ninth team in NBA history to win a playoff series after trailing 3-1. If they can win Game 6 Thursday in Atlanta, they would host the decisive Game 7 on Saturday.

Magic center Dwight Howard battled foul trouble throughout the night and had just one field goal, finishing with 8 points and 8 rebounds.

Orlando didn't need his offense, though, as it broke out of a series-long shooting slump with 11 3-pointers.

Josh Smith scored 22 points to lead Atlanta, which shot below 40 percent for just the second time this series.

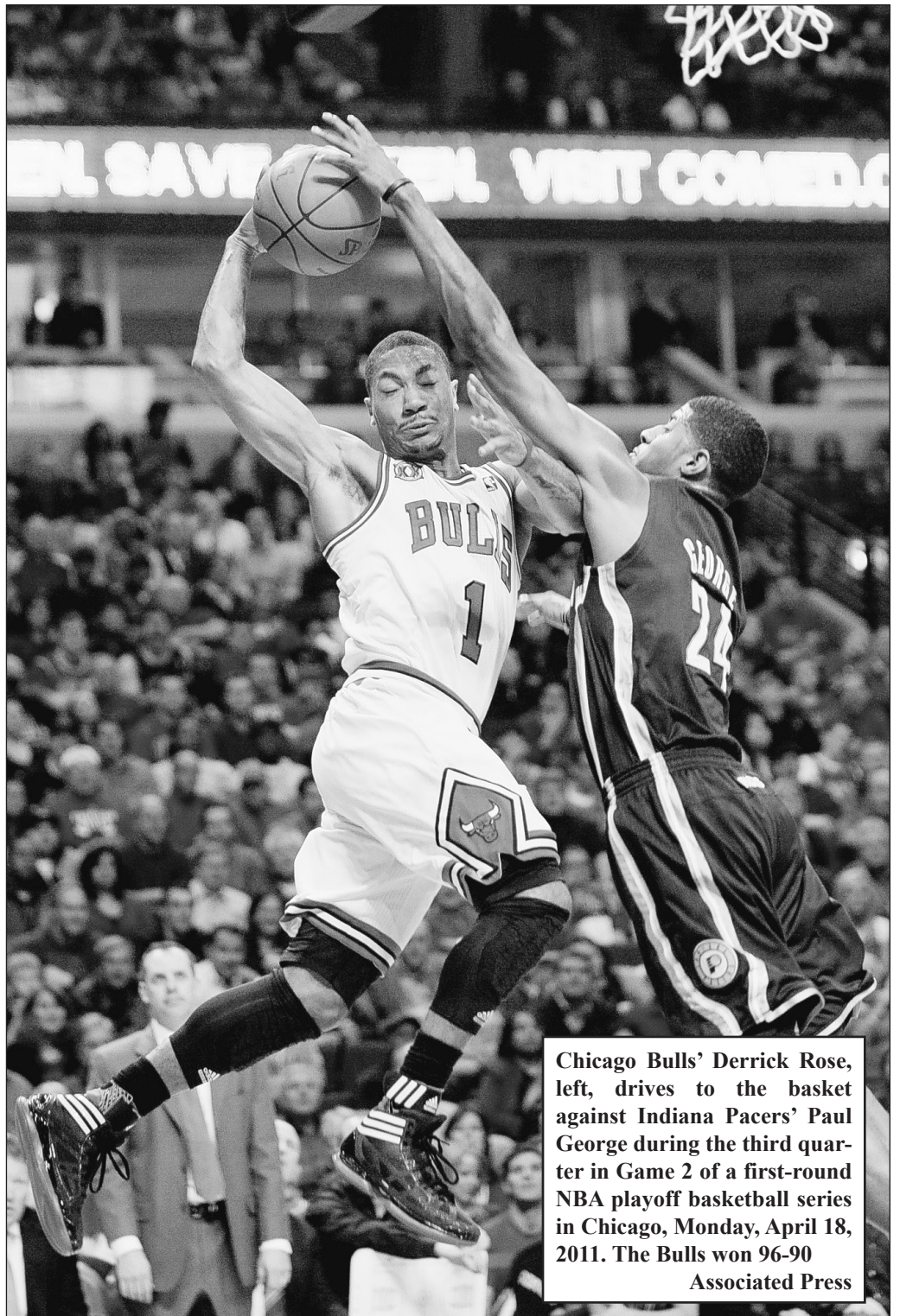
Lakers 106, Hornets 90

In Los Angeles, the home team pushed New Orleans to the brink of playoff elimination, moving ahead 3-2.

Kobe Bryant scored 19 points and threw down two stirring dunks despite a sprained ankle. Andrew Bynum had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Pau Gasol added 16 points as the two-time defending NBA champions roared back from a slow start in a pivotal game for their hopes of a third straight title.

Trevor Ariza scored 22 points and Chris Paul had 20 points and 12 assists for the seventh-seeded Hornets.

Game 6 is Thursday in New Orleans. □



Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose, left, drives to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Paul George during the third quarter in Game 2 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball series in Chicago, Monday, April 18, 2011. The Bulls won 96-90
Associated Press

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RIO 3D

daily: 4:30 - 6:45 - 9:00
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15
late show: 11:15

PG

LIMITLESS

daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45
matinee: 12:30 - 3:00
late show: 12:00

PG-13

AFRICAN CATS

daily: 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:00
matinee: 1:00 - 3:00
late show: 11:00

G

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

daily: 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 12:00
late show: 12:00

PG-13

SP = subtítulos en Español

AT PASEO HERENCIA

THOR 3D
daily: 5:30 - 8:15
matinee: 12:00 - 2:45
late show: 11:00

NEW
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WINNIE THE POOH

daily: 4:00 - 5:45
matinee: 12:15 - 2:00
late show: 11:15

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G

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2

daily: 4:30 - 6:45 - 9:00
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15
late show: 11:15

NEW
PG

RIO 3D

daily: 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
matinee: 12:30 - 2:45
late show: 11:45

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HANNA

daily: 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 12:00
late show: 12:00

PG-13

AFRICAN CATS

daily: 5:00
matinee: 12:45 - 3:00
late show: 11:00

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WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

daily: 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:15
matinee: 1:15
late show: 11:45

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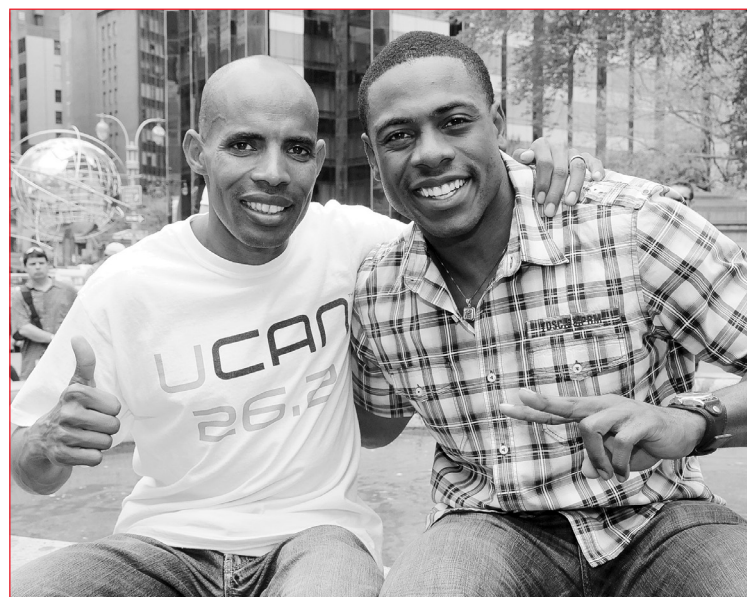
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matinee: 12:15
late show: 12:15

SP PG

Matinee: everyday | Late show: fri & sat

Keflezighi readies for NYC Marathon, Olympic trial



In this handout image released by New York Road Runners, New York Yankees' Curtis Granderson, right, joins U.S. long distance runners Meb Keflezighi during an event in Central Park Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in New York. Keflezighi plans to run the NYC Marathon on Nov. 6 in preparation for the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials. He's aiming for a top-three finish in Houston on Jan. 14 to qualify for the 2012 London Games.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Meb Keflezighi didn't compete in the marathon at the 2008 Beijing Olympics because of a hip fracture. A year later, he became the first American

man to win the New York City Marathon since 1982.

Keflezighi plans to run the NYC Marathon on Nov. 6 in preparation for the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials.

He's aiming for a top-three finish in Houston on Jan. 14 to qualify for the 2012 London Games.

"I want to win New York and sustain the fitness 69 days later," he said Wednesday in Central Park at a New York Road Runners event announcing marathon entrants.

Keflezighi will compete in the NYC Marathon along with defending champions Gebre Gebremariam of Ethiopia and Edna Kiplagat of Kenya. Three-time Olympian Jen Rhines of the United States, who has concentrated on shorter events, will return after a five-year marathon hiatus.

The 35-year-old Keflezighi looks to run in another Olympics to add to the silver medal he won at the 2004 Athens

Games. He said he's recovered from a knee injury that occurred during an altercation with a dog in Central Park during a training jaunt before the NYC Half-Marathon in March. The dog nipped at him, and he attempted to get out of the way. He finished 15th.

"It's nice to run without pain," Keflezighi said.

He is familiar with short turn-arounds between marathons. After the second-place finish in Athens, he was runner-up 70 days later at the NYC Marathon.

"He's a little older, so he has to take care of his body," said Hawi Keflezighi, his brother and manager.

Keflezighi will run his seventh NYC Marathon, where he's had five top-10 finishes. The runner from Eritrea, who graduated from UCLA and became a U.S. citizen in 1998, has finished on every step of the podium, sixth (last year) and ninth.

"New York has been good to

me," he said.

Olympic speedskating gold medalist Apolo Anton Ohno will run his first marathon. He characterized his training as "sporadic" because he often travels. His longest run is 10 miles so far.

"I've been cross-training and boxing," said Ohno, who added he's been working out with NFL players.

TV host Al Roker, actor Ed Norton and Yankee Curtis Granderson were at Central Park on Wednesday for the announcement of lottery winners for the race. A record 140,000 runners applied for the marathon, and about 45,000 will compete in the 26.2-mile, five-borough race.

The 2010 event had an economic impact of \$340 million, according to NYRR president and race director Mary Wittenberg. That was a 25 percent increase from 2006 and included growth in the charity program that raised more than \$30 million in 2010.

Djokovic wins clay court opener



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after winning a point against Adrian Ungur of Romania during their tennis match of the Serbia Open tennis tournament in Belgrade, Serbia, Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Novak Djokovic cruised to his 25th consecutive win this season by beating Romanian qualifier Adrian Ungur 6-2, 6-3 in his clay court opener in the second round of the Serbia Open on Wednesday.

The No. 2-ranked Serb is off to the best start to a season since Ivan Lendl swept his first 25 matches in 1986. He has won 61 of 67 sets and four tournament titles on three continents, including the Aus-

tralian Open, to take the No. 2 ranking from Roger Federer — the last player to beat him. On Wednesday, Djokovic was broken twice in front of his home crowd but never really looked in trouble against Ungur.

"It's tough to play on clay after almost a year," Djokovic said.

"It will take a bit to get used to it."

Earlier Wednesday, Spanish duo Albert Montanes and Feli-

ciano Lopez both advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament managed by Djokovic's family.

The fourth-seeded Montanes rallied to beat Michael Berrer of Germany 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, and Lopez defeated wild card Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Montanes won seven straight games starting at 2-2 in the second set, taking a 3-0 lead in the decider before cruising to victory.

Lopez broke for a 2-1 lead in the second set with a forehand winner after chasing down a drop shot by Gonzalez. The Chilean, who was playing his first tournament since returning from an eight-month injury layoff because of hip surgery, broke back immediately but couldn't stop Lopez from converting his third match point in the tiebreaker.

Earlier, Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia also advanced by beating Ricardo Mello from Brazil 7-5, 6-3 during another wind-swept day of the Serbia Open. Kavcic is to play Djokovic in the quarterfinals.



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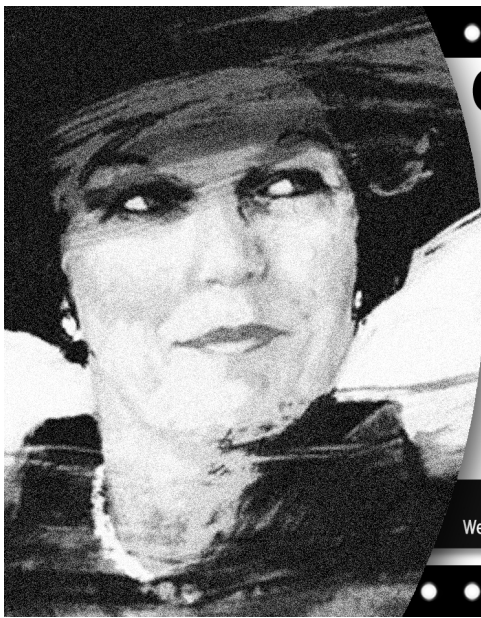
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USOC, IOC seek decision on "Six Month Rule"

DENVER (AP) — The U.S. and International Olympic committees asked the highest court in sports for a ruling Wednesday on a contentious anti-doping rule that threatens to keep American sprinter LaShawn Merritt from defending his 400-meter title at the 2012 London Games.

The USOC and IOC asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport for clarity on the so-called "Six Month Rule," which bars any athlete who has received an anti-doping ban of more than a half year from competing in the next Olympics.

Merritt, winner of the 400 meters in Beijing and world champion in 2009, received a 21-month suspension after testing positive for a banned substance found in a male enhancement product. His ban ends this July, but under the IOC rule in its current form, he still would be ineligible for London.

The Associated Press reported in March that the IOC and USOC were seeking a definitive answer to this question — and also wanted a ruling as early as possible to avoid legal issues in the weeks before the Olympics start in July 2012.

On Wednesday, the organizations came together to ask for help on an issue they essentially don't agree on — one that needs to be resolved well before the start of next summer's Olympic trials. Under the current rule, Merritt would technically be eligible for U.S. Olympic trials, but there would be no incentive to allow him to compete there if he wouldn't be able to run at the Olympics. "I'd like to thank the IOC for their willingness to proceed in this manner and

for the quality and the tone of the discussions that we have had regarding this matter," USOC CEO Scott Blackmun said.

The rule went into effect ahead of the Beijing Olympics, but has been widely criticized by those who believe it amounts to a second penalty that doesn't withstand legal scrutiny. The IOC, meanwhile, says it is not a sanction but an eligibility rule and the Olympic body determines who can participate in an event.

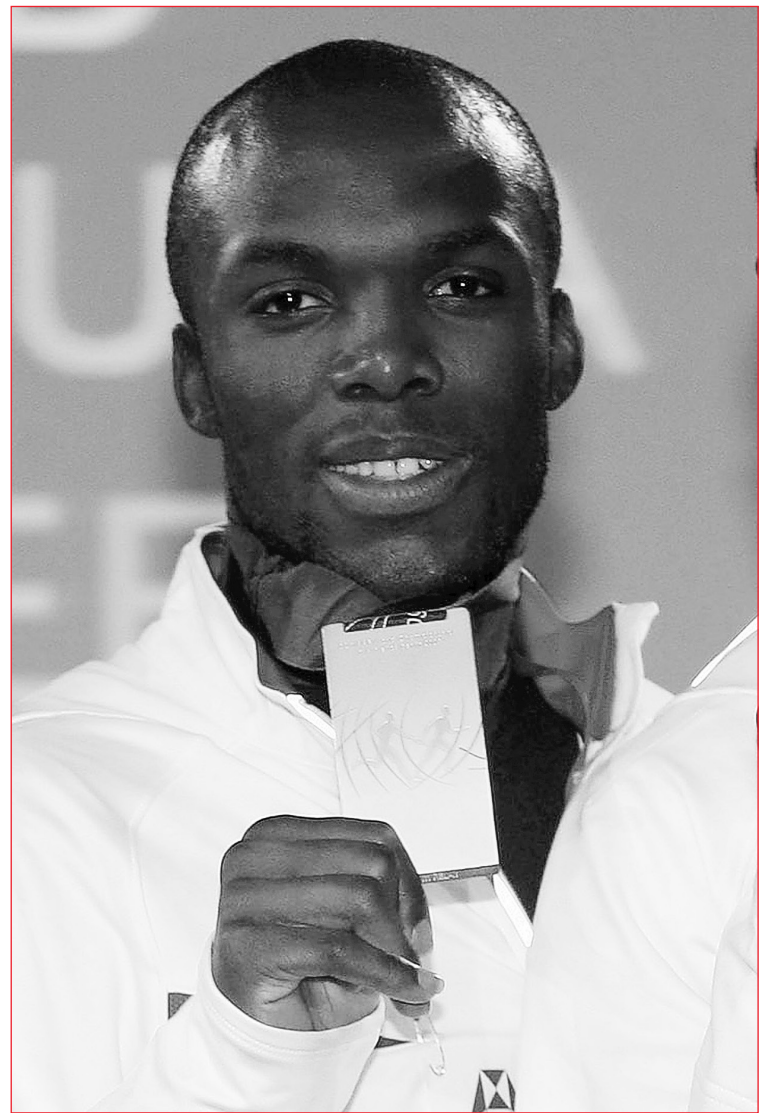
Merritt's case went to arbitration and his suspension was reduced from two years to 21 months because he cooperated with the investigation. In their decision, arbitrators contested the IOC rule and there was some confusion as to who — the IOC, USOC, Merritt or someone else — needed to bring the case to CAS.

In a statement announcing the joint request with the USOC, IOC director general Christophe De Kepper signaled that the IOC would abide by the CAS ruling.

"This arbitration will provide certainty in the lead up to the 2012 London Olympic Games," De Kepper said.

Also in need of a ruling in this case is American swimmer Jessica Hardy, who missed the 2008 Beijing Olympics after testing positive for clenbuterol. She was found to have unknowingly taken the banned agent in a contaminated food supplement and her two-year suspension was reduced to one.

Both Hardy and Merritt are represented by attorney Howard Jacobs, who did not immediately respond to messages from AP seeking comment. □

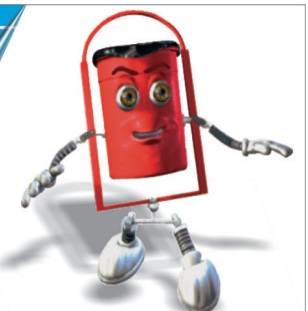


FILE - This Aug. 23, 2009, file photo shows United States' LaShawn Merritt showing his gold medal during the medal ceremony for the men's 4x400-meter final at the end of the World Athletics Championships in Berlin. The U.S. and International Olympic committees asked the highest court in sports for a ruling Wednesday, April 27, 2011, on a contentious anti-doping rule that threatens to keep American sprinter LaShawn Merritt from defending his 400-meter title at the London 2012 Games.

Associated Press

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Bohn to begin defense of Zurich Classic title



NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jason Bohn opens his Zurich Classic of New Orleans title defense Thursday, hoping to regain some magic from a year ago. He set a scoring record last year at TPC of Louisiana with an 18-under 270 in a two-shot win over Jeff Overton. He

opened with a 65 in 2010 and held onto the lead. Yet Bohn's game has waned after donning Mardi Gras beads and participating in the second-line parade — traditions reserved for the Zurich winner. In the second half of last year, he entered 17 tournaments but

missed the cut in six. His best finish was a tie for 13th at the Crown Plaza Invitational at Colonial. This year, Bohn has made six of eight cuts with earnings of \$161,644 for 144th on the PGA Tour money list. He has a single top 25 finish — a tie for ninth at the Mayakoba

Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun, which was played opposite of the World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship. "When you go back to a place you've had good success, all those positive vibes come back," he said. "I'm excited. And I'm ready to eat some

good food. I wish I was the defending champion every week."

Yet his defense of his title may be more difficult than he originally envisioned. Hampered by weak fields and non-attractive playing dates in recent years, the Zurich has one of the best fields in a decade. Even the weather could be a factor — strong thunderstorms were expected to move through the New Orleans area Wednesday evening, which might take some of the sting out of the traditional firm greens at the course, which sits on filled-in swampland. Strong winds also are expected for much of the weekend, which will play a significant role since there are relatively few trees around the 7,341-yard layout.

This year, three of the world's top 10-ranked players are participating, thanks to the tour moving back the tournament to three weeks after The Masters, something Zurich officials had been lobbying for the past several years. Headlining the field is Luke Donald, who missed an opportunity to snag the world's top ranking last week at the Heritage when he lost to Brandt Snedeker in a playoff, allowing Lee Westwood to claim the top spot.

Snedeker, ranked 38th in the World Golf Ratings, also is in the field.

Reigning U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell, ranked No. 5, and ninth-ranked Steve Stricker, also are expected to participate.

The 2007 Zurich winner, Nick Watney will compete, as will fan favorite Rickie Fowler, who at 36th in the world rankings is the highest ranked player to have not won a tournament.

Vijay Singh, who won the Zurich Classic at English Turn Golf and Country Club in 2004, is trying to use the Zurich to play his way into a U.S. Open exemption.

Bohn is coming off a tie for 36th at the Heritage but said what was most encouraging was that he had to birdie four of the last six holes just to stick around for the weekend. □

Duncan Fletcher appointed India coach



FILE - This is a Monday Jan. 10, 2011 file photo of South African cricket team consultant Duncan Fletcher as he attends a team practice in Durban, South Africa. India appointed Fletcher as the new coach of the national team on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 to replace South African Gary Kirsten, who resigned after guiding India to its World Cup triumph.

Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Former England coach Duncan Fletcher was appointed the new coach of India with a

two-year contract on Wednesday. Despite the announcement by the Board of Control for

Cricket in India, Fletcher told The Associated Press by telephone that the contract was yet to be finalized.

"I cannot say anything until the BCCI has finalized my contract," said Fletcher, contacted at his home on a golf course in Hermanus, Western Cape.

"I need to be consistent with everyone and do as the BCCI have asked me, and that is not to talk to the media. This is a delicate time. I hope you'll appreciate that."

Fletcher said that once negotiations with the BCCI were complete, he'd be happy to talk to the media, but added that "has to be in India."

According to the BCCI, the 62-year-old Fletcher has replaced Gary Kirsten, who didn't want to extend his con-

tract after guiding India to World Cup victory in Mumbai this month.

However, Fletcher may not be part of India's nine-match tour of West Indies in June and July, said BCCI secretary Narainswamy Srinivasan. Srinivasan said Fletcher "has some prior commitments."

He was expected to be available to lead India on tour in England from July.

Fletcher was shortlisted by the BCCI along with another former Zimbabwe player, Andy Flower, the England coach.

He will be the fourth foreign coach of India after New Zealander John Wright, Australian Greg Chappell and South Africa's Kirsten.

Fletcher captained Zimbabwe at the 1983 World Cup but never played in tests. □

Apple denies iPhones store user location



In this April 22, 2011 photo, University of Iowa sophomore Autumn Bradfish, 20, of Lake Zurich, Ill., poses for a picture at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City, Iowa. Bradfish said she had heard little about the reports of her location being collected on her iPhone and she said she was not particularly concerned about the practice. 'If they use it just for ads, I don't see that as a problem. Facebook does that. If I'm going to have ads thrown at me, they might as well be relevant to my location.'

(AP Photo/Ryan J. Foley)

By PETER SVENSSON,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Apple Inc. denied Wednesday that iPhones store a record of their users' movements for up to a year and blamed privacy concerns partly on a misunderstanding. A data file publicized by security researchers last week doesn't store users' locations, but a list of Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers in their general area, the company said. It promised software fixes to address concerns over that file. The data, downloaded from Apple, help the phone figure out its location without having to listen for faint signals from GPS satellites. That means navigation applications can present the phone's location faster and more accurately, Apple said.

Apple said the data are stored for up to a year because of a software error. The company said there's no need to store data for more than seven days, and a software update in the next few weeks will limit the amount of data in that file.

The iPhone will also stop backing up the file to the user's computer, a practice that raised some concerns. Computers are much more vulnerable to remote hacking attempts than are phones.

A third planned fix is to stop downloading the data to phones that have all "Location Services" turned off,

Apple said, and to encrypt the file on those where it's on.

"Users are confused, partly because creators of this new technology (including Apple) have not provided enough education about these issues to date," Apple said in its statement.

Wednesday's statement was Apple's first comprehensive response to the most recent allegations.

Apple had revealed the nature of the location file in a letter to Congress last summer following an earlier round of questions about its location-tracking practices.

The file drew new attention last week, after a report from researchers Alasdair Allan and Pete Warden at a technology conference in Santa Clara, Calif.

As demonstrated by location-analysis software released by Allan and Warden, the lists of Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers generated by iPhones can

be used to construct a general record of users' movements. But a snoop needs access to the victim's phone or PC, both of which usually store lots of other personal information. Phones contain texts, emails and lists of phone calls. PCs contain such information as tax returns, logs of websites visited and passwords.

In an email, Warden said it was good to have an explanation for the existence of the file. He agreed that it doesn't contain precise location information.

"By pulling down information about nearby towers, the log can reveal where you are at a neighborhood level," he said, adding that he's relieved that Apple is applying software fixes.

"I'm happy that Apple has answered some of the questions that I raised and I'm glad they've acknowledged they need to take steps to address these problems.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., chairman of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law, said he still has questions about why Apple didn't tell users what it was doing.

"This has raised larger questions of how the locations of mobile devices are tracked and shared by companies like Apple and Google, and whether federal laws provide adequate protection as technology has advanced," Franken said Wednesday. He plans a hearing on cellphones and privacy next month.

In Wednesday's statement, Apple reiterated that while iPhones regularly transmit their location to Apple, they do so only anonymously, and the company isn't able to track users. □

Nokia slashes 7,000 jobs in major strategy shift



Managing Director Stephen Elop of mobile phone giant Nokia speaks at a press conference at the headquarters of in Espoo Finland Wednesday April 27, 2011. Nokia Corp. said Wednesday that it will lay off 4,000 people worldwide by the end of 2012 as it strives to cut costs amid stiff competition from top smartphone rivals. Most of the job cuts will be in Denmark, Finland and Britain, the company said, adding that talks with employees had already begun.

(AP Photo)

By MATTI HUUHTANEN,
Associated Press

HELSINKI — Nokia Corp. said Wednesday it will slash 7,000 jobs worldwide, through both layoffs and outsourcing, as it strives to cut costs and catch up with its top rivals in the smartphone market. Most of the 4,000 layoffs, due by the end of 2012, will be in Denmark, Finland and Britain, Nokia said.

It also plans to transfer 3,000 workers in China, Finland, India, Britain and the United States to Accenture PLC as it outsources Symbian platform operations to the global management-consulting firm, in a major shift of strategy.

Nokia stock closed up more

than 3 percent at euro6.15 (\$8.99) on the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

The announcements came as the world's top cellphone maker seeks to cut operating expenses by euro1 billion (\$1.5 billion) by 2013 amid fierce competition that has seen its market share plunge and profits plummet.

Markets had been eagerly expecting signals about company policy from the new CEO, Stephen Elop, since he took over in September. Even more they awaited word on strategy decisions since the Feb. 11 announcement that Nokia and Microsoft Corp. were teaming up to challenge rivals such as Research in Motion, Apple Inc. and Google Inc.

"At Nokia, we have new clarity around our path forward, which is focused on our leadership across smart devices, mobile phones and future disruptions," Elop said Wednesday.

The announcements came as Nokia organized company briefings for thousands of personnel in several cities in Finland, where it has 13,000 employees but indirectly provides work for more than 20,000 people.

Elop said that none of the employees will lose their jobs this year, and that the personnel transfers would be made "over time," describing the decisions as "absolutely necessary" to get the company back on track.

"We have to realign our work force with the needs of our business," Elop told Finnish broadcaster YLE, saying that Nokia had tried hard to minimize the impact of the job cuts.

"For example, by doing the relationship with Accenture, we're making sure that quite a number of Nokia employees will have continued employment," he said.

Neil Mawston from Strategy Analytics market research said Nokia's decisions were "sensible" as it struggles against rivals. □

YouTube founders ready for 'Delicious' next act

SAN FRANCISCO — YouTube founders Chad Hurley and Steve Chen are cooking up another Internet company whose ingredients will include the content-sharing service Delicious.

The creators of the world's most popular video site bought Delicious from Yahoo Inc., which decided late last year to either close or sell the service.

The financial terms of the deal announced Wednesday weren't disclosed.

Delicious will become part of Avos, an Internet startup that Hurley and Chen have set up near the San Mateo, Calif., office where they started YouTube in 2005. They sold YouTube to Google Inc. for \$1.76 billion in 2006. Chen says Avos is working on ways to help people navigate the torrent of information cascading from Internet services.

Delicious, acquired by Yahoo in 2005, provides a forum for sharing website bookmarks. □



Michael Pistillo, left, of Barclays Capital, directs trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

Stocks rise as Fed says it will end bond program

By CHIP CUTTER, AP Business Writer
NEW YORK — Stocks turned higher Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said it would end its \$600 billion bond-buying program as scheduled in June because the economy has improved. The decision, announced after the Fed's two-day policy meeting, was widely expected on Wall Street. The Fed made no changes to the bond program and said that job market conditions "are improving gradually." It repeated its promise to keep interest rates low for "an extended period."

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will hold a news conference on the economy later Wednesday. Bernanke is expected to discuss the job market, inflation and the prospects for economic growth in the months ahead.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 45 points, or 0.4 percent, to 12,640 in afternoon trading. It went up about 30 points shortly after the Fed's statement came out.

The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 1, or 0.1 percent, to 1,349. The Nasdaq composite index rose 5, or 0.2 percent, to 2,853.

Earnings results were mixed. Boeing Co. rose less than 1 percent after reporting earnings that beat analyst expectations. The airplane maker and defense contractor also said it still expects to deliver its long delayed 787 aircraft in the third quarter. DeVry Inc. rose 7 percent. The for-profit education company reported that its earnings rose 18 percent as its revenue rose. Broadcom Corp. fell 12 percent a day after the chip maker issued a second-quarter revenue outlook that was below analyst estimates.

Specialty glass maker Corning Inc. rose 1 percent after the company's revenue surged on strong sales of glass for flat-screen televisions, computers and mobile devices.

Johnson & Johnson fell less than 1 percent after the health giant said it would buy medical device maker Synthes Inc. for \$21.3 billion in one of the largest deals in the company's history. Bond prices rose slightly after the Fed's statement came out. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.35 percent after the Fed released its statement, after trading at 3.37 percent minutes earlier. The 10-year yield was trading at 3.32 percent late Tuesday.

Investors were encouraged after the Commerce Department reported that businesses increased their orders for long-lasting manufactured goods by 2.5 percent in March, a bigger increase than economists had predicted.

"The manufacturing sector remains the real bright spot of the economy," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at New York-based brokerage house Avalon Partners Inc. □



Bernanke offers clues about steps to raise rates

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON — At a historic news conference, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke offered clues Wednesday about when and how the Fed would begin raising interest rates.

Bernanke said that as long as the Fed continues to say rates will remain at record lows for "an extended period," rates won't rise until the Fed has met at least twice more.

The Fed, which ended a two-day meeting Wednesday, gathers about every six weeks.

The Fed chairman also said any additional steps by the Fed to try to lower unemployment might raise other risks, such as higher inflation. If inflation were to accelerate, it could then reduce employment. That's because the Fed would have to raise rates to slow borrowing and spending and blunt price increases.

In his appearance, Bernanke appeared relaxed with reporters, projecting a calming presence and saying nothing that might

rattle investors.

He sketched a picture of an economy that is growing steadily but remains weighed down by a prolonged period of high unemployment. He acknowledged the pain unemployment is causing, noting that around 45 percent of the unemployed have been without a job for six months or longer.

"We know the consequences of that can be very distressing because people who are out of work for a long time, their skills tend to atrophy," Bernanke said.

Stocks rose after Bernanke said he expects the economy to continue growing through next year and 2013.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which was up about 50 points when Bernanke began speaking, gained another 50 points half an hour before the market closed.

Bernanke acknowledged that higher gasoline prices are creating a financial hardship for many Americans. But he said the Fed doesn't think gas prices will continue to rise at their recent pace. The news conference was the first

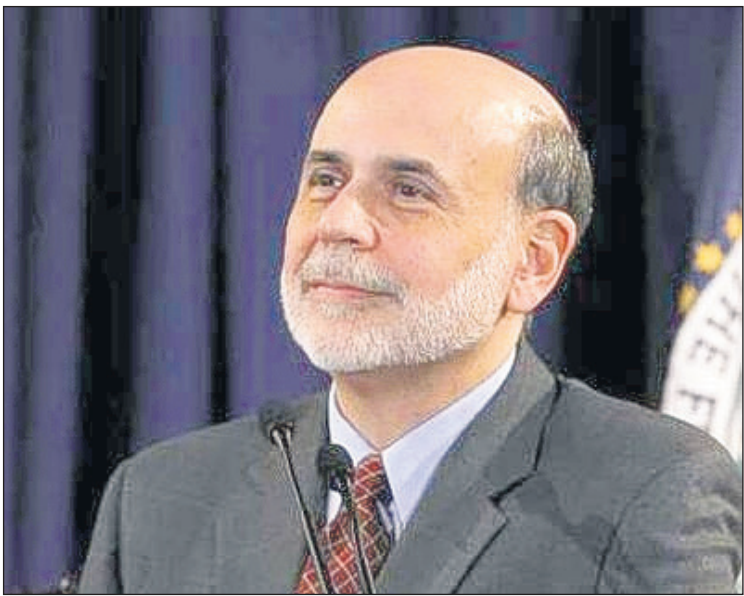
time in the Fed's 98-year history that a chairman has begun holding regular sessions with reporters.

It offered Bernanke a chance to drive a debate about Fed policy. Critics have said the Fed's efforts to boost growth raise the risk of high inflation. Investors are seeking clues about when the Fed will start raising interest rates to help slow price increases.

Bernanke said the first step in tightening interest-rate policy could occur when the Fed stops reinvesting the proceeds of its bond holdings. Bernanke would not be specific about when that might occur. He said it will depend on inflation and economic growth in coming months.

He said that step would be a relatively modest one. But it would constitute the Fed's first tightening because it would allow interest rates to creep up.

The news conference, the first of three scheduled this year, is part of a long-standing Bernanke effort to make the Fed more transparent. □



U.S. Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke pauses during his first-ever news conference following a meeting at the Federal Reserve in Washington, April 27, 2011. The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday it is in no rush to scale back its extensive support for the U.S. economy, while slightly downgrading its view of the economy's recent performance.

Oil up slightly after Bernanke comments on economy



Flames shoot into the sky from a gas pipeline after unknown saboteurs bombed the Egyptian pipeline near the village of Al-Sabil in the El-Arish region of the Sinai.

By SANDY SHORE, AP Business Writer
 Oil settled slightly higher Wednesday after Fed chairman Ben Bernanke said the nation's economy will continue to recover, and gas prices will level off or drop. Benchmark crude for June delivery rose 55 cents to settle at \$112.76 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent crude rose 99 cents to settle at \$125.13 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Bernanke's news conference was the first ever for a Fed chairman. While he said he expected inflation to tick up in the near term, mainly because of higher oil and gas prices, he believes that the nation's economy is in a "moderate recovery" that should be sustainable.

Bernanke also said there isn't much the Fed can do to bring down high gas prices that are "creating a financial hardship for a lot of people." He said the price of oil has been driven

Unemployment falls in 80 pct. of large cities

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The unemployment rate fell last month in more than 80 percent of the nation's largest metro areas, adding to evidence that the recent pickup in hiring is widespread.

The unemployment rate fell in 303 of the nation's 372 largest cities in March, the Labor Department said Wednesday. That's up from the more than the 287 cities that reported a drop the previous month and the best showing since September. The rate rose in 43 cities and was unchanged in 26.

Nationwide, the unemployment rate dipped to a two-year low of 8.8 percent in March and has dropped a full percentage point since November. Businesses added a net total of more than 200,000 jobs in March and February, the fastest two-month hiring spree in five years. The metro employment data is distorted by seasonal trends, such as the hiring of temporary employees for agricultural harvests or for the summer holidays. Unlike the national data, it is not seasonally adjusted and is therefore more volatile from one month to the next. One way to filter out those effects is to com-

pare each month with the same month a year earlier. Unemployment rates fell in 317 cities last month compared to March 2010. That's the most to report a yearly decline since the recession ended in June 2009.

"Clearly, the economic recovery is broadening across the country," Steve Cochrane, a regional economist at Moody's Analytics, said. "We're still seeing some pretty good improvement in unemployment rates in the industrial Midwest."

The report also shows the lasting effects of the April 2010 BP oil spill, which polluted the Gulf of Mexico and disrupted fishing and oil production in the region.

Seven of the 10 cities with the biggest increases in unemployment in the past year are located in Louisiana, most of them near the Gulf. Baton Rouge, La. reported the largest increase in unemployment in the 12-month period, rising to 8.2 percent from 6.6 percent.

El Centro, Calif. reported the nation's highest unemployment rate, at 24.6 percent, followed by Yuma, Ariz., with 21.7 percent.

Lincoln, Neb. had the lowest rate, with 4.1 percent, followed by Bismarck, N.D. with 4.2 percent. □

Apple says white iPhone to arrive Thursday



An Apple Inc. employee checks the iPhone 4 in San Francisco 2010. The long-awaited white model of the iPhone 4 is finally available, nearly a year behind schedule.

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple says the long-delayed white iPhone 4 will go on sale Thursday in the United States, United Kingdom and 26 other countries for \$199 or \$299 depending on the model.

Apple Inc. said Wednesday the prices are for phones purchased with a two-year contract from AT&T Inc. or Verizon Wireless in the U.S.

The black iPhone 4 went on sale last June. Apple had hoped to make the white phones available in July, then in late 2010. But it has said that the gadget was more challenging to produce than expected. In October, Apple said the white phones would be available in the spring.

Separately, Apple says the iPad 2 will go on sale in Japan on Thursday and in Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and eight more countries on Friday. □

J&J to buy medical device maker Synthes for \$21.3B



FILE - This is a Monday, April 18, 2011 file photo shows a Synthes Inc. office complex in West Chester, Pa. Health giant Johnson & Johnson said Wednesday April 27, 2011 it will buy U.S.-Swiss medical device maker Synthes Inc. for US\$21.3 billion, greatly increasing its share of the market for surgical trauma equipment and orthopedic implants.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

GENEVA — Health products giant Johnson & Johnson said Wednesday it will buy U.S.-Swiss medi-

cal device maker Synthes Inc. for \$21.3 billion, greatly increasing its share of the market for surgical trauma equipment and orthopedic implants.

J&J's largest ever deal will see the New Jersey-based company offer 159 Swiss francs in cash and stock for each Synthes share.

That is a 22 percent premium on the April 14 share price, the day before reports first claimed Synthes was considering a take-over.

Synthes is based in West Chester, Pennsylvania, but has its global headquarters in Solothurn, Switzerland. Last year it had global sales of \$3.69 billion, including \$2.15 billion in North America.

"Orthopedics is a large and growing \$37 billion global market and represents an important growth driver for Johnson & Johnson," CEO Bill Weldon said in a statement.

J&J said Synthes would complement its own DePuy orthopedics portfolio to address what it called "significant market trends." □



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MARVEL STUDIOS

THOR 3D

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Fri - Sat 2:10 / 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25 / 11:50
Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25

Mon - Thurs 1:25 / 3:50 / 6:15 / 8:40
Fri - Sat 1:25 / 3:50 / 6:15 / 8:40 / 11:10
Sun & Hol 1:25 / 3:50 / 6:15 / 8:40

PG-13

NEW THIS WEEK!



Zachary Gordon Devon Bostick


DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

RODRICK RULES

Mon - Thurs 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
Fri - Sat 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00

PG

ON TWO SCREENS



Jesse Eisenberg Anne Hathaway

RIO

3D VERSION
Mon - Sun & Hol 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:35

SPANISH VERSION
Mon - Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45

G



Reese Witherspoon Robert Pattinson

WATER for ELEPHANTS

Mon - Thurs 6:50 / 9:20
Fri - Sat 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 6:50 / 9:20

PG-13

Samuel L. Jackson Alastair Fothergill

DisneyNature

AFRICAN CATS

Mon - Sun & Hol 1:25 / 3:20 / 5:15

G

AnnaSophia Robb Dennis Quaid

soul surfer

Mon - Thurs 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
Fri - Sat 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20

PG

Saoirse Ronan Eric Bana

HANNA

Mon - Thurs 7:15 / 9:30
Fri - Sat 7:15 / 9:30 / 11:45
Sun & Hol 7:15 / 9:30

PG-13

James Marsden Russell Brand

HOP

Mon - Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00

PG

Neve Campbell David Arquette

SCREAM 4 M

Mon - Thurs 9:15
Fri - Sat 9:15 / 11:35
Sun & Hol 9:15

R

STARTING NEXT WEEK MAY 5 - FAST FIVE



A Royal carriage draws up at the entrance to Westminster Abbey during overnight dress rehearsal for the Royal Wedding of Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton, in central London, Wednesday, April, 27, 2011. Prince William is to marry Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey in London, on Friday, April 29. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

Royal wedding guests face strict security sweeps

By PAISLEY DODDS, Associated Press

LONDON — It's not the type of welcome most wedding guests expect — ID checks and a tough security sweep before entering the church.

But then again, Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding on Friday is no ordinary affair.

Britain hasn't seen a royal wedding of this size since Prince Charles married Diana in 1981 — there were actually 200 more police on duty for that wedding, which had a longer procession route and a guest list of some 3,500 people, including foreign royals and heads of state.

Friday's wedding will offer much of the same pomp and circumstance with its 1,900 invited guests. Still, it presents a modern security nightmare for the 5,000 U.K. police officers on duty, who will be on the lookout for Irish dissident terrorists, Muslim extremists, anti-monarchists, protesters and ordinary riffraff who might blight the royal spectacle.

Scotland Yard Police Commander Christine Jones said Wednesday there has been no new terror threat but considerable Internet chatter.

"Our operation has been meticulously planned, and we have thought through and planned for a huge range of contingencies," she said.

A wide range of police will be on patrol Friday: officers on motorcycles, escort specialists, dog handlers, search officers, mounted police, protection officers and firearms units, although only a fraction of Britain's police officers are armed.

Thousands of people are expected along the parade route Friday, a snaking path of less than a mile from Westminster Abbey — an iconic cathedral near London's Big Ben and Parliament buildings — to Buckingham Palace, where the new royal couple will appear on the balcony for one of the most anticipated kisses in decades.

Police helicopters buzzed over London before dawn Wednesday during a dry run — a rehearsal that saw army, navy and air force personnel in full uniform lining the parade route. Starting at 5 a.m., the troops timed their roles to the second for Friday's performance, and mounted troops of the Household Cavalry escorted a horse-drawn carriage.

The royal couple did not attend, but some spectators still got up extra early to watch.

"I can't believe how wonderful it is," said Heather Cameron, a 53 year-old London resident. "Nobody does pomp and ceremony like the Brits do."

Britain has seen several major terror attacks and plots since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in 2001. The deadliest came in 2005, when homegrown terrorists killed 52 commuters during London's rush hour — Europe's first suicide bombing. □



FILE - In this Jan. 16, 2011 file photo, actress Katie Holmes is pictured before announcing nominations for the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

Star magazine apologizes, settles Holmes lawsuit

LOS ANGELES — Katie Holmes has settled her lawsuit with the publishers of Star magazine over a cover story that insinuated she was a drug addict.

The magazine published an apology to the actress Tuesday on the cover and inside its May 9 issue, saying it “did not intend to suggest that Ms. Holmes was a drug addict or was undergoing treatment for drug addiction.”

“In a recent issue of Star, we published headlines about Katie Holmes that could be read to suggest that she was addicted to drugs,” the apology read. “Star apologizes to Ms. Holmes for any misperception and will be making a substantial donation to charity on Ms. Holmes’ behalf for any harm that we may have caused.”

Holmes’ publicist, Ina Trecio-kas, said that American Media Inc. gave a sizable donation to Dizzy Feet Foundation, an organization that brings dance to underprivileged children. Holmes sued the publishers last month for a January magazine cover with a headline that read “Katie DRUG SHOCKER!” At the time, the magazine stood by its story and said it expected the case to be dismissed.

Financial terms of the settlement were not disclosed. Holmes had been seeking more than \$50 million in damages. □

Obamas visit Chicago to film Oprah episode



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk up the stairs to Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Wednesday, April 27, 2011. The first couple are flying to Chicago where the President will appear on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

CHICAGO — President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama are back in their hometown of Chicago to film an episode of “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

The Obamas arrived in Chicago on Wednesday morning for the filming. Later in the day the president is traveling to New York.

The first couple is to appear on one of the final episodes of “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” which

is taped in Chicago at Harpo Studios. Winfrey is ending her popular talk show this May after 25 years.

The Obamas’ show is to air on May 2.

The last episode of “The Oprah Winfrey Show” will air May 25. That episode will bring to an end what has been television’s top-rated talk show for more than two decades. It airs in 145 countries worldwide. □

Musicians sue Broadway musical ‘Baby, It’s You!’

By MARK KENNEDY,
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK — Producers of the Broadway musical “Baby, It’s You!” were slapped with a lawsuit Wednesday only hours before opening night by several musicians including Dionne Warwick and three of the four original members of The Shirelles claiming their names and likeness were used without permission.

The complaint filed in New York State’s Supreme Court alleges the producers of the musical did not get permission from Warwick, Chuck Jackson or Beverly Lee, Doris Coley Jackson and Addie Harris Jackson of The Shirelles to portray them on stage. It seeks unspecified damages. “These national treasures were taken advantage of at the infancy of their careers,” said Oren Warshavsky, a lawyer at Baker Hostetler, which filed the lawsuit. “Now they have to watch it done to them again on stage and once more not



In this theater publicity image released by The Hartman Group, Beth Leavel, center, performs with the ensemble cast in “Baby It’s You,” in New York.

(AP Photo/The Hartman Group, Ari Mint)

get paid.”

Paul McGuire a representative for the show’s producers — Warner Bros. Theater Ventures Inc., Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. and Broadway Baby, LLC — said they had not received the lawsuit and would not comment.

The show, which stars Tony Award winner Beth Leavel, traces the career of recording executive Florence Green-

berg, who discovered several acts at the dawn of rock ‘n’ roll. It features actors portraying The Shirelles, Warwick and Jackson, and performances of some of the songs they made top sellers.

The Shirelles were formed in 1958 in New Jersey and had hits with “Will You Love Me Tomorrow,” “Dedicated to the One I Love,” “Mama Said,” “Soldier Boy” and “Baby, It’s You.” □



FILE - In this April 12, 2011 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan poses during a news conference for the film ‘Gotti: Three Generations’, based on the life of John Gotti, in New York. Lohan is joining the big screen Gotti family as the wife of John Gotti Jr. in a biopic of one of New York’s most infamous families. S(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

Lohan says she’s ready to take responsibility

NEW YORK — Lindsay Lohan says she’s made poor decisions in the past, but insists she’s ready to deal with the consequences.

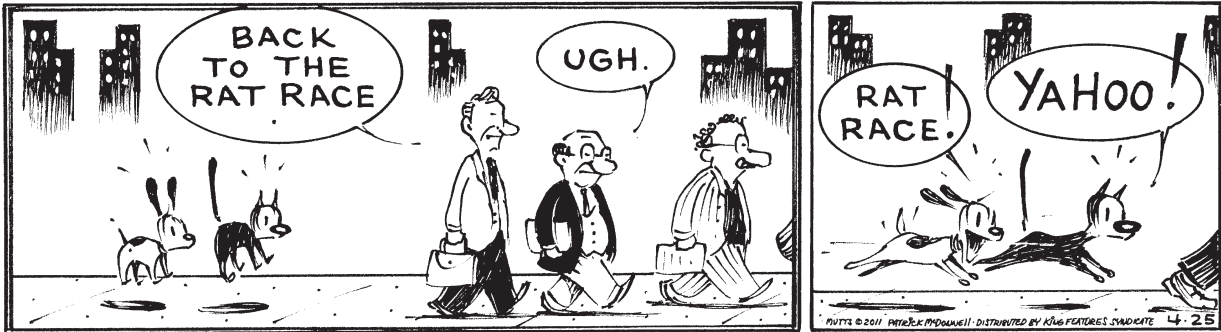
Appearing on NBC’s “Tonight Show” on Tuesday, the troubled actress acknowledged feeling shock at last week’s ruling by a Los Angeles judge that sentenced her to jail. But when asked by host Jay Leno if her treatment was fair or unfair, Lohan said she was “treated the way I should be treated.”

“I’m a big girl,” the 24-year-old Lohan said, “and I’m gonna do what I’m told to do.”

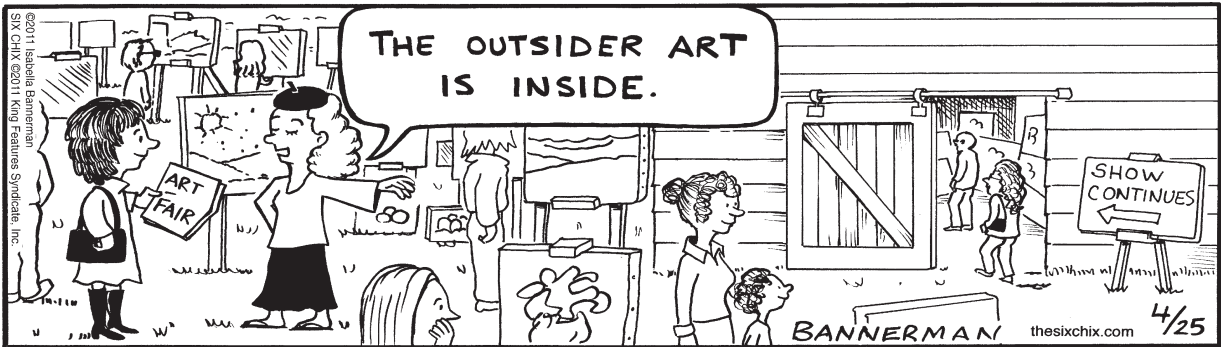
On Friday, Lohan was sentenced to 120 days in jail for violating her probation by taking a designer necklace. The actress’s attorneys appealed the sentence. Lohan was freed on bond after a few hours behind bars.

She told the “Tonight” audience that she’s playing the wife of John Gotti Jr. in the crime family movie, “Gotti: Three Generations.” Her casting in the role was announced last week but it was unclear whether her legal woes might affect it. □

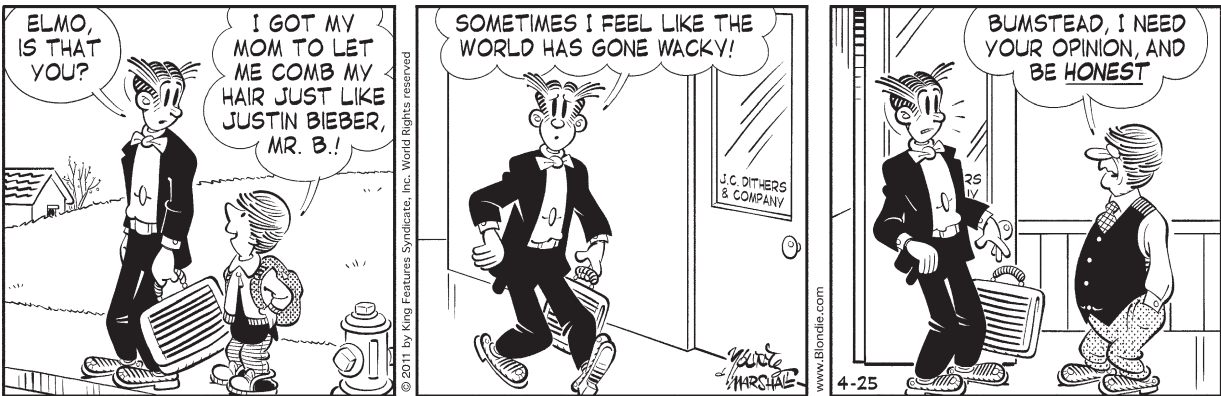
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4		8	5	6				3
						1	9	
				9	3	5		4
9	5			8		2		1
			3	1	2			
2		3		5			8	7
7		9	4	3				
	4	1						
8				7	9	4		2

Difficulty Level ★

4/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

7	2	5	8	4	3	6	9	1
8	9	1	2	6	5	3	4	7
4	3	6	9	7	1	5	2	8
3	7	4	5	8	6	2	1	9
9	6	2	3	1	4	8	7	5
1	5	8	7	2	9	4	6	3
5	1	3	6	9	2	7	8	4
6	4	7	1	3	8	9	5	2
2	8	9	4	5	7	1	3	6

ACROSS

- Terrycloth wraparound
- Ditches around castles
- Spill the beans
- "Once __ a time..."
- Chili topper, for some
- Speak wildly
- Hit hard
- Using few words
- Balanced; level
- Signs up
- Toward the ocean
- Pigeon's cry
- Come together
- Nerd
- Moines, IA
- Give a speech
- Is victorious
- Pekoe, for one
- Left __; not spoken
- Pack animal
- "__ Row"; book by Steinbeck
- Duster's cloth
- Corned beef sandwich
- Actor Johnson
- Clinton's VP
- Released
- Buddhism sect
- Of the moon
- __ Day; holiday in September
- __ culpa; guilty one's phrase
- Beer makers
- Volcanic output
- State positively
- Be flexible
- Cry
- Great pain
- Roam about
- Sneezy or Doc
- Smarter
- Follow
- Comfy room
- Burr or Spelling
- Jeweled crown
- Lawn tool
- Light brown
- Ornamental vase

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22			23				
			24			25								
26	27	28			29				30	31	32	33		
34				35				36						
37			38				39				40			
41		42				43				44				
45					46				47					
			48	49				50						
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58				59		60				61				
62				63						64				
65					66						67			

4/25/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

RILE	NASAL	LIFT
IDEA	ELOPE	ABLE
COAT	ALLEGATION	
ELF	TREE	BESET
	HOOEY	HES
STONED	BATTER	
WIPES	STEW	RIB
IMPS	BLEAK	TAPE
GEE	POUND	WADER
	DRYING	BOXING
	END	RELIC
ALGAE	DEAF	ACE
BOARD	ROOMS	ATOM
EVIL	ADMIT	GERM
DENY	MEETS	EDDY

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4/25/11

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 38 __ of Lebanon; | 50 Sloppy |
| biblical tree | 51 Too hasty |
| 39 Long, long time | 52 Reverberate |
| 42 Hold as true | 53 Slender |
| 44 Protected | 54 Mister, in Berlin |
| 46 Astrology | 55 Wrestling form |
| diagram | 56 Correct text |
| 47 Meadowland | 57 Collections |
| 49 Chimes | 60 By way of |

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CASA DEL MAR

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DIVI PHOENIX

Wk 8 Studio
Wk 9 1BR

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\$3,000, Rent \$600
WK 47, 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600

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WK 2, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 4, \$12,995 2BR Pool
Wk 5 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 6 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*
Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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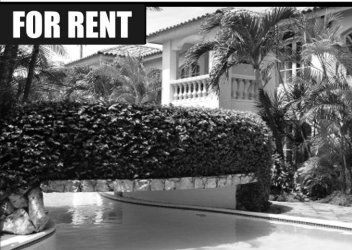
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Studio wk 16 room 106B pool/ocean	\$6000
Divi Phoenix Beach Resort	
4studio wk 14 room 504 ocean view	\$6000
Studio wk 18 Room 803 ocean view	\$6500
Studio wk 15 room 404 ocean view	\$6000
Studio wk 15 room 403 oce an view	\$6000
1Br wk 16 room 1205 Ocean View	\$10000
1br wk 16 room 103 beach front	\$6000
Occidental Resort	
2Br Supreme wk 2/17 Ocean Front	\$22000
3Br wk 2/17 Ocean Front	\$50000
Playa Linda Beach Resort	
2Br wk 13 Room 632 Pool Ocean View	\$23000
1Br wk 13 Room 344 Ocean View	\$15000
Dutch Village	
Studio wk 17 Room 126 Pool/View	\$5000
Divi Village	
2Br wk 16 Room 3503 Ocean View	\$10000
Divi Links	
2Br wk15/16 Room 4125/4126 mainfloor 8 hole 2 stories	\$65000
Paradise Beach Villas	
2Br wk 15 room 301 pool/ocean	\$8500
1Br wk 18 room 103 pool/ocean view	\$7000
Amsterdam Manor	
2Br wk 1/52 whole year room 213	\$550000
Renaissance Siutes	
1Br wk 13 Room 2521 Pool/Ocean View	\$9500
1Br wk 13 Room 2137 Pool/Ocean View	\$9500
1Br wk 16 Room 2550 Ocean Front	\$9000
The Mill Resort	
2Br wk 14 room 234 B/C pool/view	\$8000
Riu Palace	
1Br wk 14 room 348 pool/ocean view	\$6000
1br wk 14 room 368 Pool/Ocean view	\$6000
1Br wk 15 Room 542 Pool/Ocean View	\$6000
2Br wk 15 Room 349/350 pool/ocean view	\$8500
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Oranjestad 582-4000
Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

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Emergency 911
Police 100
Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
Police Tipline 11141
Hospital 587-4300

Oranjestad
Ambulance 582-1234
Police 582-4000
San Nicolas
Ambulance 584-5050
Police station 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

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Taxi- Tas 587-5900
Professional Taxi 588-0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587-2300
Service Aruba 583-3232

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2 May Island Princess
2 May Celebrity Const.
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Study: First stars were massive, fast-spinning

By ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES – The first stars that dotted the universe were not only immense, but probably also fast-spinning, according to a new study that sheds light on the nature of stellar evolution. These early stars died out long ago, but astronomers can get a glimpse of what they were like by looking at later generations of stars. A team of scientists led by Cristina Chiappini of the Astrophysical Institute Potsdam in Germany reanalyzed data from the Very Large Telescope of a 12-billion-year-old star cluster. They found high levels of metal in the stars — a chemical signature that suggests earlier generations, perhaps even the first stars, were massive and rotated much faster than their present-day counterparts.

This is important because a

star that spins more rapidly can live longer and suffer different fates than slow-spinning ones.

Findings appear in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*. Current theory holds that the universe was born out of an explosion, called the Big Bang, about 13.7 billion years ago. During the next 200 million years, the universe cooled, leaving it dark and starless. The first stars that formed during the universe's infancy were different from stars like our sun, which is mostly hydrogen, but also contains oxygen and carbon. The earliest stars were primarily hydrogen and helium. They also lived fast and died young. When they died, they exploded as brilliant supernovae and seeded the universe with basic elements from which future stars, including our sun, were created. □

Shrinking funds pull plug on alien search devices

By MARCUS WOHLSEN,
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – In the mountains of Northern California, a field of radio dishes that look like giant dinner plates waited for years for the first call from intelligent life among the stars.

But they're not listening anymore. Cash-strapped governments, it seems, can no longer pay the interstellar phone bill. Astronomers at the SETI Institute said a steep drop in state and federal funds has forced the shutdown of the Allen Telescope Array, a powerful tool in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, an effort scientists refer to as SETI.

“There’s plenty of cosmic real estate that looks promising,” Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the institute, said Tuesday. “We’ve lost the instrument that’s best for zeroing in on these better targets.” The shutdown came just as researchers were preparing to point the radio dishes at a batch of new planets. About 50 or 60 of those planets appear to be about the right distance from stars to have temperatures that could make them habitable, Shostak said. The 42 radio dishes had scanned deep space since 2007 for signals from alien



FILE - In this Oct. 9, 2007 file photo, the Allen Telescope Array is seen adjacent to a cow pasture in Hat Creek, Calif. Astronomers at the SETI Institute in Northern California say a steep drop in state and federal funds has forced the shutdown of a key program to search for extraterrestrial life. Dozens of radio dishes that make up the Allen Telescope Array in the mountains of far Northern California have scanned deep space since 2007 for alien signals.

(AP Photo/Ben Margot, File)

civilizations while also conducting research into the structure and origin of the universe. SETI Institute chief executive Tom Pierson said in an email to donors last week that the University of California, Berkeley, has run out of money for day-to-day operation of the dishes. "Unfortunately, today's government budgetary environment is very difficult, and new solutions must be found," Pierson wrote. The \$50 million array was built by SETI and UC Berkeley with the help of a \$30 mil-

tion donation from Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen. Operating the dishes cost about \$1.5 million a year, mostly to pay for the staff of eight to 10 researchers and technicians to operate the facility. An additional \$1 million a year was needed to collect and sift the data from the dishes. The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the billionaire's philanthropic venture, had no immediate plans to provide more funding to the facility, said David Postman, a foundation spokesman.

The institute, however, was hopeful the U.S. Air Force might find the dishes useful as part of its mission to track space debris and provide funding to keep the equipment operating.

The SETI Institute was founded in 1984 and has received funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation and several other federal programs and private foundations. □

A black and white advertisement for "Pleasure in Aruba". On the left, a woman is depicted in a suggestive, seated pose, wearing a bikini bottom and high heels. The background is solid black. The text is in white, using various fonts and sizes. At the top, "PLEASURE IN ARUBA" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, "MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICES" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The phone number "565-9535" is prominently displayed in a very large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the number, "SERVING MEN • WOMEN • COUPLE" and "24 HOURS SERVICE" are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, "DELIVERY & PICK-UP" and the email address "pleasureinaruba@hotmail.com" are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font.



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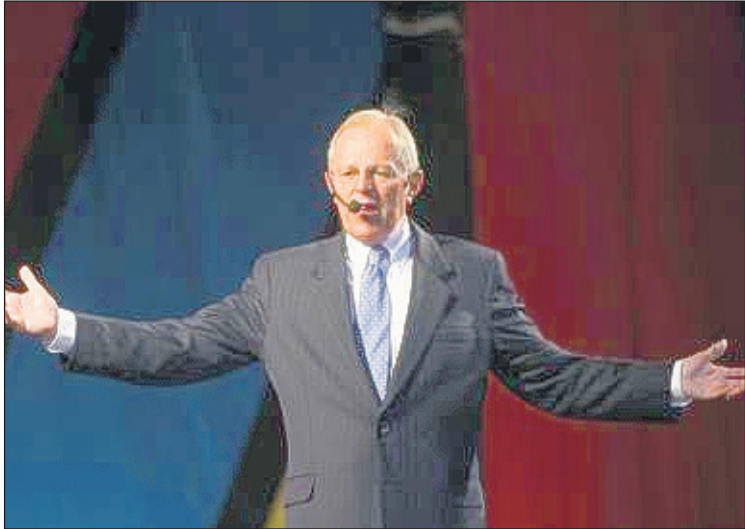
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Chávez financió campaña Humala en 2006



Kuczynski dice a diario de Miami que Chávez financió campaña Humala en 2006.

MIAMI - “Ciertamente, en la elección de 2006, la financiación (de la campaña de Humala) vino de Venezuela”, y “no hay nada para pensar que en esta vuelta sea distinto”, señaló Kuczynski en una entrevista con el rotativo estadounidense.

El exprimer ministro peruano alertó de que, en estas elecciones presidenciales está en juego la continuidad de las políticas económicas que han permitido a Perú crecer a un ritmo de más del ocho por ciento anual en los últimos años, un logro que, dio a entender, pondría en peligro la eventual victoria de Humala. Sobre la presunta financiación de la campaña de Humala por parte de Venezuela en 2006, Kuczynski precisó al diario que el dinero “era enviado en maletas que ingresaban al país a través de la valija diplomática de la embajada venezola-

na” y luego “entregadas secretamente a Humala”.

“Midiendo el número de maletas que entraron deberían ser sumas grandes, sin duda de varios millones de dólares. Venían con mucha regularidad”, explicó.

Al concluir el escrutinio de votos de las elecciones presidenciales del 10 de abril la Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales (ONPE) de Perú indicó que el resultado final fue de 31,6 % de votos para Humala y un 23,5 % para Fujimori.

El candidato nacionalista Ollanta Humala es el favorito en las elecciones del próximo 5 de junio, en las que se enfrentará en segunda vuelta con la legisladora Keiko Fujimori.

Según un reciente sondeo de Ipsos Apoyo, Humala y Fujimori tienen un 42 y un 36 por ciento de apoyo, respectivamente, a nivel nacional. □

Latinoamérica y el Caribe diseñan su mayor proyecto de integración

CARACAS - Representantes de 30 países de América comenzaron hoy en Caracas los trabajos para construir la arquitectura de la nueva Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y el Caribe (Celac), el mayor proyecto de integración del continente sin Estados Unidos ni Canadá.

“Este es el evento político de mayor importancia y de mayor potencial de trascendencia de todos los que han ocurrido en esta América nuestra en cien años y más”, dijo hoy el presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, en la II Reunión de Cancilleres de la Cumbre América Latina y el Caribe sobre integración y desarrollo (CALC).

El encuentro, que cuenta con la participación de delegaciones de 30 países, 17 de ellos encabezadas por cancilleres, comenzó hoy a definir la normas de procedimiento y funcionamiento, aspectos logísticos y agendas de la Celac, organismo que surgirá de la unión de la CALC y el Grupo de Río.

“Lo que ustedes están haciendo aquí es historia y grande, un potencial gigantesco (...) para llegar a la concreción (...) de nuestra unidad y que no nos quedemos solo en la poesía”, indicó dirigiéndose a los participantes en la reunión.

“Aquí, yo lo siento así, vamos por el camino, que nadie nos descarrile”, agregó el presi-



Imagen de la II Reunión de Cancilleres de la Cumbre América Latina y el Caribe sobre integración y desarrollo (CALC), que se celebra en Caracas, Venezuela, y que tiene como objetivo sentar la “arquitectura” de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y del Caribe (CELAC).

dente, tras una intervención plagada de referencias a los próceres de la independencia americana.

Concluida la reunión, el canciller venezolano, Nicolás Maduro, dijo en conferencia de prensa que quedó pendiente la definición de “un solo tema”, el referido a las decisiones del organismo por consenso, y que se acordó el cronograma de encuentros de ministros de diversos sectores.

Maduro señaló también que los cancilleres se han dado

“treinta días para emitir una declaración” sobre una cláusula de la norma constitutiva de la Celac “para la defensa de la democracia”.

Con ello aludió a la llamada “cláusula democrática”, que en otros organismos regionales determinan las sanciones económicas, financieras y políticas a países donde triunfen aventuras golpistas.

“Nos dimos treinta días para su aprobación definitiva y elevarla en julio a los presidentes”, dijo.

Chávez se mostró conforme con la inclusión de la cláusula democrática, pero “respetando sensibilidades” y pidió, como “travesura”, que se incorpore también “una cláusula de no bombardeo” y de “no injerencia”.

Los ministros también se dieron un plazo de 24 horas para hacer consultas y eventualmente emitir una resolución que fije una posición conjunta sobre la situación bélica en Libia, país que envió a la reunión un delegado que se entrevistará con las autoridades venezolanas.

Más allá de detalles concretos, el vicescanciller de Chile, Fernando Schmidt, cuyo país comparte con Venezuela la secretaría encargada de los trabajos de preparación de la Celac, destacó que en la reunión de hoy se está “construyendo la arquitectura reglamentaria básica” del nuevo organismo. □

Ex colonias caribeñas divididas en torno a la boda real

En algunos territorios y ex colonias británicas en el Caribe, los jueces utilizan gruesas pelucas blancas, los aficionados a los deportes no se pierden un partido de cricket y la reina Isabel II es la jefa de Estado, pero no a todos les apasiona la boda real del príncipe Guillermo. El interés sobre las nupcias del príncipe y Kate Middleton se ha reducido de una generación a otra en el Caribe británico, con su diversidad étnica. La boda, que se celebrará el viernes en la Abadía de Westminster en Londres, genera emoción

entre los adultos de mediana edad y las personas mayores que consideran a la realeza británica como un símbolo de estabilidad, pero entre los jóvenes sólo provoca bostezos y no es tan llamativo como las estrellas de reggae. Numerosas abuela caribeñas y madres estarán pegadas a la televisión, casi al igual que la forma en la que la gente lo hizo en 1981 cuando el príncipe Carlos, padre de Guillermo, se casó con Diana Spencer. También se han planeado numerosas fiestas en las islas caribeñas con influencia británica, algu-



nos restaurantes anunciaron que tendrán platillos “reales”, como scones (bollos) de fram-

buesa, sandwiches de pepino y tés aromáticos para celebrar a la pareja. Algunos hoteles han incluido música asociada con la realeza, como las piezas “God Save the Queen” y “Rule Britannia”. En Barbados, una isla de 35 kilómetros de largo por 20 de ancho (20 millas por 14) que es conocida como la “Pequeña Inglaterra” por sus múltiples características coloniales, la expectación por la boda real es enorme entre Carnetta Smith y sus amigas. Barbados se independizó de Gran Bretaña en 1966.

“Es muy bonito escuchar so-

bre una gran boda romántica como esa”, dijo Smith, quien planea seguir una transmisión de la ceremonia en el radio. “Además se trata del futuro rey y la futura reina”.

En Bermudas, un pequeño territorio británico en el Atlántico, una organización no lucrativa para ciudadanos mayores organizará un té por la tarde en un hotel elegante donde los invitados podrán ver la transmisión de la BBC mientras disfrutaban algunos pastelitos y golosinas. Se espera que los invitados vayan de etiqueta. □

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